



2 BJP CHIEF NADDA ASKS RAHUL TO 'AT LEAST READ' CONSTITUTION



11 ISLAMABAD COURT APPROVES IMRAN KHAN'S BAIL APPLICATION



16 'STILL HOPE TO PLAY FEW MORE YEARS, MAKE AN IMPACT IN WORLD CRICKET...'

NOT A ROUTINE JUDGEMENT: SHAH ON SC GRANTING BAIL TO KEJRIWAL

Hits back at Delhi CM saying "Modiji is our leader even after 2029".

AGENCIES KOLKATA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that many people feel the Supreme Court's decision granting interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case is akin to him getting special treatment.

He said that the judgement in the case was not a routine judicial order.

"Supreme Court has the right to interpret the law, I believe this is not a routine judgement. A lot of people in this country believe that special treatment has been given," Shah told ANI.

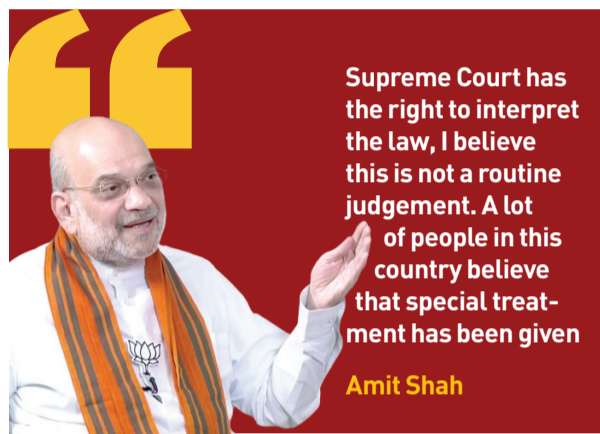
Responding to a query about Kejriwal campaigning for the Aam Aadmi Party and the Congress in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the Home Minister took a

dig at the Delhi Chief Minister.

"Right now he (Arvind Kejriwal) is stuck in another issue (alleged assault on Swati Maliwal by CM's aide), let him get free from that then let's see what happens," Shah said.

Dismissal Arvind Kejriwal's claims that the central government installed cameras in Tihar jail to keep a watch on him, the Union Home Minister said that the Tihar jail administration is with the Delhi government. "Tihar is with them (Delhi government), not with us. They are lying continuously. Jail administration is with the Delhi government, it's with Kejriwal. Not with the Home Ministry," Shah said.

The Supreme Court on May 10 granted interim bail to the Aam Aadmi Party supremo in the alleged money



Supreme Court has the right to interpret the law, I believe this is not a routine judgement. A lot of people in this country believe that special treatment has been given

Amit Shah

laundering case linked to Delhi's excise policy.

The Delhi CM spent over 50 days in Tihar Jail after he was arrested on March 21 this year by the Enforcement Directorate. As per court order, the bail is applicable till June 1 and Kejriwal has to surrender to the jail authorities on June 2. The Delhi CM can participate in poll campaigning but cannot attend office as Chief

Minister.

Responding to Arvind Kejriwal's recent announcement of ten guarantees to the people, Amit Shah said the AAP leader's comments need not be taken seriously as the party is contesting only 22 Lok Sabha seats.

"Don't take him so seriously, he (AAP) is only fighting 22 seats. And he is giving the guarantee for the entire P4

QUOTABLE QUOTES

■ **On Congress guarantees:** "I call it 'Chinese guarantee' on the basis of their durability

■ **On Mamata:** She has developed a modus operandi... Sandeshkhali is a classic example.

■ **On Farooq Abdullah's comment:** "Will nuclear power with 130-cr population be scared of someone"

■ **On Naxals:** "I think that in the next 2-3 years, the country will be completely free of Naxal issue."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde and Dy CM Devendra Fadnis, greets the gathering during a roadshow for the Lok Sabha elections, at Ghatkopar in Mumbai on Wednesday. ANI

FOR FIRST TIME, A PARTY HAS PROMISED TO DESTROY CONSTITUTION: RAHUL

Speaking at a rally in Balangir on Wednesday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said that for the first time in the country's political history, a political party has allegedly promised in its poll campaign that if they win the elections, they will be uprooting the Constitution.

DETAILS P2

UDDHAV PROMISES TO REGAIN MAHARASHTRA'S LOST GLORY, SLAMS PM MODI

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said Maharashtra's lost glory would be restored if the I.N.D.I.A block of opposition parties came to power. Speaking at a campaign rally in Nashik, he also promised farmers guaranteed Minimum Support Price for agricultural produce, and scrapping of GST.

DETAILS P2

NewsClick editor's arrest invalid, rules SC

ASHISH SINHA NEW DELHI



The Supreme Court in its significant judgement on Wednesday declared the arrest of NewsClick founder and editor-in-chief Prabir Purkayastha in a case under the anti-terror law UAPA as "invalid in the eyes of law."

The top court noted that a copy of the remand application, outlining the grounds of arrest in writing, was not provided to Purkayastha or his counsel before the remand order dated October 4, 2023, which "vitiates" his arrest and subsequent remand.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta stated, that "there is no hesitation in the mind of the Court to reach to a conclusion that the copy of the remand application in the purported exercise of communication of the grounds of arrest in writing was not provided to the accused appellant or his counsel before passing of the

order of remand dated 4th October, 2023 which vitiates the arrest and subsequent remand of the appellant."

As a result, the appellant is entitled to a direction for release from custody by applying the ratio of the judgment rendered by this court in the case of Pankaj Bansal (supra), the bench added

The bench further stated that the arrest of the appellant followed by remand order dated 4th October, 2023 and so also the impugned order passed by the High Court of Delhi dated 13th October, 2023 are hereby declared to be invalid in the eyes of law and are quashed

A copy of remand application, outlining the grounds of arrest in writing, was not provided to Purkayastha ... which "vitiates" his arrest -Supreme Court

and set aside.

"Though we would have been persuaded to direct the release of the appellant without requiring him to furnish bonds or security but since the chargesheet has been filed, we feel it appropriate to direct that the appellant shall be released from custody on furnishing bail and bonds to the satisfaction of the trial court."

The bench also stated that the court makes it abundantly clear that none of the observations made above shall be treated as a comment on the merits of the case.

The bench delivered its P4

Unemployment rate dips to 6.7% in March quarter

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

The unemployment rate for people aged 15 years and above in urban areas declined to 6.7 per cent in the January-March period from 6.8 per cent a year ago, according to the National Sample Survey Survey (NSSO).

Joblessness, or unemployment rate, is defined as the percentage of unemployed people in the labour force.

DETAILS P6

The unemployment rate in the March quarter of FY23 was 6.8 per cent, while it was 6.6 per cent in April-June as well as in the third quarter (July-September 2023) of the previous fiscal. It was 6.5 per cent in October-December 2023. The unemployment rate for people aged 15 years and above in January-March 2024 was 6.7 per cent in urban areas, the 22nd Periodic Labour Force Survey showed.

FM: Capex up 5 times from FY14 to FY24

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

With Congress slamming the economic performance of the BJP-led government, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has hit back at the party and challenged Rahul Gandhi to answer questions raised by her concerning the promises made by the opposition party in its manifesto and the performance of Congress-led UPA

government. In a series of long posts on X, Sitharaman said the fiscal management of the BJP-led government has been "robust" and capital expenditure increased by five times from FY14 to FY24.

She accused the Congress of misleading the country on fiscal management and "hiding behind lofty promises that are non-transparent and disconnected from reality". P4

DETAILS P4

SC: Child in womb has fundamental right to live

ASHISH SINHA NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to entertain a petition from a 20-year-old unmarried woman seeking termination of her pregnancy, which had exceeded 27 weeks. The fetus in the womb also possesses a fundamental right to life, the bench said.

A bench of Justice B R Gavai along with Justices SVN Bhatti and Sandeep Mehta issued this ruling while hearing the woman's plea challenging the Delhi High Court's decision on May 3, which denied her request for termination.

"We cannot issue any directive contradictory to the statute," the bench informed the woman's counsel. "The child in the womb also holds a fundamental right to live. What is your response to that?" the bench inquired.

The woman's counsel P4

Monsoon to keep date with Kerala: IMD

TARUNI GANDHI CHANDIGARH

Southwest monsoon is likely to arrive over Kerala around May 31, setting the stage for the four-month rainfall season crucial for India's farm-based economy.

"This year, the Southwest Monsoon is likely to set over Kerala on May 31 with a model error of four days," the India Meteorological De-



partment said on Wednesday.

P4

First set of 14 people get citizenship under CAA

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

The first set of citizenship certificates under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act was issued Wednesday here to 14 people, nearly two months after rules under the contentious law were notified to grant Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants from three neighbouring countries.

Sources said 14 people P7

were handed over the certificates symbolically at a special function held here while digitally signed certificates are also being sent to a "few hundred" other applicants through email.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah termed it a "historic day", saying the decades-long wait of those who faced religious persecution in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan is over.

DETAILS P7

INSIDE

CHHINDWARA: A CONGRESS FORTRESS



Since India's independence Chhindwara Lok Sabha constituency in Madhya Pradesh has been a Congress bastion. BJP could breach this fortress only once when Sunder Lal Patwa won in 1997. DETAILS P9

Slovak PM wounded in shooting incident

AGENCIES BRATISLAVA

Four-time Prime Minister of Slovakia, Robert Fico was wounded in a shooting incident on Wednesday (local time) in Handlova and has been hospitalised, reported The Slovak Spectator.

The incident took place after a government meeting in Handlova.

Handlova is notably a mining town in the Trenčin Region of Slovakia, where, the shooter fired at PM Fico, outside the cultural house, where a government meeting was held. DETAILS P12



Wong sworn in as Singapore's new Prime Minister

AGENCIES SINGAPORE

Singapore's fourth generation of leaders will "lead in our own way" with a leadership style that is different from previous generations, Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said on Wednesday as he took oath of office in a planned political transition in the city-state. The 51-year-old economist-turned-politician succeeded Lee Hsien Loong, 72, who relinquished his position after two decades; both belonging to the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) that has been driving Singapore's economic progress for more than five decades. DETAILS P11



Indians in UK to gain as NHS expands 'soup & shake' diet

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Over 10,000 more people living with type 2 diabetes and obesity in England, many of them of Indian and South Asian heritage, are to be offered the state-funded health service's "soup and shake" diet plan to help them lose weight.

The radical National Health Service (NHS) Type 2 Diabetes Path to Remission Programme is being rolled out under a new expansion plan to double its capacity this year. The programme will now be available in 42



The expansion of this transformative programme is another example of the NHS leading the way internationally, by providing evidence-based treatments and support to help give people with type 2 diabetes more control over their health, said NHS chief executive Amanda Pritchard.

local health areas - up from 21 last year - meaning that eligible patients will be able to access it in every part of England.

"The expansion of this transformative programme is another example of the NHS leading the way internationally, by providing evidence-based treatments and support to help give people with type 2 diabetes more control over their health," said NHS chief executive Amanda Pritchard.

"Developing type 2 diabetes can have a devastating impact for so many people P4

UK Asian Film Festival honours Kavita Krishnamurthy

AGENCIES LONDON

Well-known playback and classical singer Kavita Krishnamurthy has been conferred with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her contribution to music by the annual UK Asian Film Festival (UKAFF) in London.

The 66-year-old singer behind several Bollywood box-office hits from films like 'Mr India' and 'Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam' received the Golden Flame Lifetime Achievement Award at a P4

UDDHAV PROMISES TO REGAIN MAHA'S LOST GLORY, SLAMS PM MODI

TDG NETWORK NASHIK/MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday said Maharashtra's lost glory would be restored if the INDIA block of opposition parties came to power. Speaking at a campaign rally here for his party's candidate from Nashik Lok Sabha seat, Rajabhau Waje, he also promised farmers guaranteed Minimum Support Price for agricultural produce, and scrapping of GST on farm inputs. Maharashtra gave Prime Minister Narendra Modi more than 40 MPs in 2014 and 2019 elections, but got nothing in return, Thackeray alleged. "You promised two crore jobs. Where are those jobs? Some Gujaratis deny Marathi



people entry. Shall we bear it? ASHA workers are not getting their honorarium for months. There are no health facilities, jobs, no money to farmers and no crop loans. I promise to regain the lost glory of Maharashtra after coming to power. I also promise farmers MSP for crops. I will cancel the GST on fertilizers, seeds when an INDIA government comes to

power at the Centre," he said. He also lashed out at the Union government for banning onion exports earlier. "Now, the ban has been lifted, but export duty has been imposed," Thackeray pointed out. He also criticised the prime minister for not visiting Manipur since ethnic strife began in the north-eastern state last year, and campaigning for JD (S) leader Prajwal Revanna who is caught up in a sex abuse scandal. Modi and Amit Shah were the masterminds of the "conspiracy to finish off Shiv Sena", Thackeray alleged. His party supported the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, but did Kashmir return to normalcy or Kashmiri Pandits return to the Valley, the Sena (UBT) chief asked. "Our lawyer Aseem Sarode said they did not remove Article 370, but nullified a sub-section.... Adani bought land in Kashmir because of the presence of lithium deposits which is used in batteries and other electronic equipment. He will get land, lithium and the money earned from it will go to Gujarat again," Thackeray said.

Boatmen of Varanasi hail PM Modi, vow to vote him back as MP

TDG NETWORK VARANASI

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi filed his nomination for Varanasi, bidding for a third straight term in office and in the Lok Sabha from the constituency; people from the ancient temple town, especially the boatmen, came out in his praise for the wave of development and makeover the city has experienced in the recent past. Speaking to ANI on Wednesday, Santosh Sahni, a boatman from Varanasi, said, "Since Prime Minister Modi came to represent our city in the Lok Sabha, things have been going well for us. Our lives and livelihoods have changed for the better. Since the development and opening of the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, the

city's tourism potential has grown by leaps and bounds. Better tourism prospects directly impact our lives and livelihoods. We wish that he would visit us every year and make our livelihoods even better. Could we ask for anything else? We will vote for him again." Sunil Sahni, a young member of the Mallah (boatmen) community, said, "We have been into this profession since the time of our ancestors. Since Modi-ji became our MP and PM, our businesses have grown by leaps and bounds. Earlier, the development of tourism here lagged and largely ignored. However, since the opening of the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, dedicated initiatives towards cleanliness and implementation of numerous other

development schemes, the face of Kashi as we knew it has changed. Now, everybody wants to visit Varanasi. Those visiting our city in droves book boat rides as well. Hence, a boost in the city's tourism potential has had a positive impact on our earnings. Now, we use both oars and motors to run our boats." Saying that their business slows in scorching summer as the footfall of visitors drops with the onset of the season, the boatman said big cruise liners sail across the waters with tourists these days, affecting their earnings. He urged the government to cap the number of cruise vessels. Deepak Kumar Sahni, who said he has been a boatman for 80 years, said, "We have been into this line of work over many decades.

'PM Modi will win from Varanasi with resounding margin'

TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

Tamil Nadu Bharatiya Janata Party president K Annamalai on Wednesday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the work he has done in Varanasi and said that the Prime Minister will win the Lok Sabha elections with a "resounding margin." Speaking to ANI, the Tamil Nadu BJP president said that the people of Varanasi, can very proudly claim that the city has undergone a complete transformation. "Previously also we have seen constituencies of Prime Ministers. Can we say that this once constituency (Varanasi) which was for a Prime Minister for five years, it has fundamentally transformed or changed?...Varanasi, can very proudly claim that it has changed completely... PM Modi has shown the world what a prime minister can do to a place...He has done

'I never said Hindu or Muslim, I talked about poor families': PM Modi

TDG NETWORK VARANASI

Clarifying his "infiltrators" and "those with more children" remarks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in an interview with News18 said that he did not only talk about Muslims but spoke about every poor family, adding that the day he starts doing Hindu-Muslim, he will be "unworthy of public life." In an interview with News 18, PM Modi said that he does not market love towards Muslims, "I do not work for a vote bank. I believe in Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas." "I am shocked. Who told you that whenever one talks of people with more children, the inference is more Muslims? Why are you so unjust towards Muslims? This is the situation in poor families too. Where there is poverty, there are more children, irrespective



of their social circle. I didn't mention either Hindu or Muslim. I have said that one should have as many children as you can take care of. Don't let a situation arise where the government has to take care of your children," the Prime Minister said on Tuesday. Referring to the post-Godhra riots in Gujarat when he was the Chief Minister of the state, PM Modi said that his opponents "tarnished" his image among the Muslims after 2002 (the Godhra riots). "This issue is not about

Muslims. Irrespective of how supportive individual Muslims are of Modi, there is a wave of thought that dictates to them, 'do this, do that'. In my house, there are all Muslim families around me. Eid was also celebrated in our house, and there were other festivals in our house. Food was not cooked in our house on the day of Eid. Food used to come to my place from all the Muslim families. When Muharram started, we needed to come out from under the Tajiya, we were taught. I grew up in that

world. Even today, many of my friends are Muslims. After 2002 (Godhra), my image was tarnished," he added. Asked whether Muslims would vote for him in this Lok Sabha election, he said that the "people of the country will vote for me." "The day I start doing Hindu-Muslims, I won't be entitled to live in the public domain. I won't do Hindu-Muslim. This is my pledge," PM Modi said. Earlier, Prime Minister Modi, in a public rally in Rajasthan, alleged Congress wants to take away the gold and property of people and distribute it among "those having more children." Referring to reports about Congress's intention to redistribute wealth if elected to power, the Prime Minister said the party would conduct a survey and they would not even let Mangalsutra remain with women and "will go to this extent."

'Vote for development and vikas, vote for Modi'

LATHA SRINIVASAN NEW DELHI

The Animal actress has been busy with her films but she took time out to talk about the elections in India. Speaking to ANI in Mumbai, Rashmika Mandanna opened up about the elections and stated that India should vote for vikas and development. Mumbai goes to vote on May 20 and she was speaking ahead of the elections in the city. "Look at our country; it is freaking brilliant, and in the last 10 years, our country has grown, and its infrastructure today, the planning in our country, road planning—everything is just brilliant. It is 'Haan' time," Rashmika



said and added, "The young India is growing at such a fast speed, and it's the young generation. India is the smartest country, and I take pride in it. It's something that the young Bharatiya has to vote for, and they are being responsible now," Travelling on the Atal Setu bridge, Rashmika praised how the bridge

was constructed in just a few years. "The journey of two hours can be done in 20 minutes. As in, you wouldn't even believe it! Who would have thought that something like this would have been possible?" she asked excitedly. The Atal Setu, which is the longest bridge and sea bridge in the country, is 21.8 kilometre

long, including a 16.5 portion over sea, and will reduce the distance from Navi Mumbai International Airport and also cut travel time to major areas like Pune, and further to Goa and the rest of south India. Rashmika went to talk about the youth of the country and believed they are very smart. "People are seeing them as being very smart, very responsible, and headed in the right direction. As a young Bharatiya to all of you from this majestic artistic infrastructure at Atal Setu, Vikas and Development should not stop. Vote for Vikas and development," Rashmika Mandanna said.

Amritpal enters poll fray from Khadoor Sahib as independent candidate

TARUNI GANDHI CHANDIGARH

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has accepted the nomination of pro-Khalistani separatist and Waris Punjab De Chief, Amritpal Singh, to contest as an independent candidate from Punjab's Khadoor Sahib Lok Sabha constituency. According to ECI data, Singh's nomination was filed on May 10. He is currently incarcerated in Dibrugarh jail, Assam. In April, Singh's mother, Balwinder Kaur, revealed



that there had been pressure on him to enter the political arena. "Pressure was being put on Amritpal Singh to contest the elections, and now he is going to

start his political innings from Khadoor Sahib Lok Sabha constituency as an independent candidate," she stated. Amritpal Singh was arrested by Punjab police in

April last year after evading authorities for over a month. He and nine associates are detained under the stringent National Security Act in Dibrugarh jail. The Khadoor Sahib seat was previously held by Congress' Jasbir Singh Gill in 2019. For the upcoming election, Congress has nominated Kuldeep Singh Zira, while BJP has fielded Manjit Singh Manna. AAP's candidate is Laljit Singh Bhullar, and the Akali Dal will be represented by Virsa Singh Valtaha. Voting for Punjab's 13 Lok Sabha seats is scheduled for June 1, during the seventh phase of the national elections.

Kharge, Sonia, Rahul, Priyanka Congress' star campaigners in UP

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, party president Mallikarjun Kharge, MP Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi are among the star campaigners named by the party for the Lok Sabha poll campaigning in Uttar Pradesh. The list has been released for the seventh phase of elections in Uttar Pradesh. The other prominent leaders on the list include Salman Khurshid, former Chief Ministers Ashok Gehlot, Bhupesh Baghel, and Congress Working

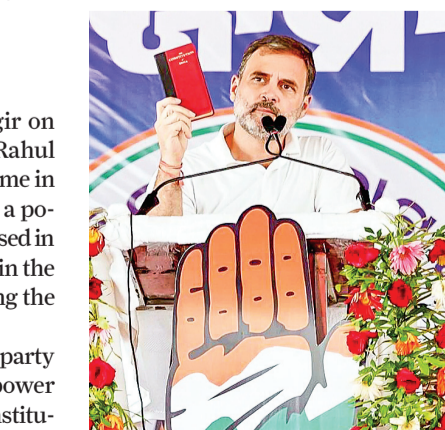
Committee member Sachin Pilot. Uttar Pradesh will witness the fifth phase of Lok Sabha elections on May 20. This time, Jhansi, Amethi, Raebareilly, Lucknow, Kaiserganj, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Banda, Fatehpur, Kaushambi, Barabanki, Faizabad, and Mohanlalganj will go to the polls. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi has "challenged" Prime Minister Narendra Modi to fight one election on issues like unemployment, inflation, and his policies. Addressing a rally on Tuesday in Amethi, Priyanka said, "I challenge

the Prime Minister to fight one election on unemployment, inflation and your policies. Tell the public once, what you have done for the poor, for the labourers, for the common man. He can't tell because he hasn't done anything." The state has 80 Lok Sabha seats. As per the seat-sharing agreement, Congress will be contesting 17 seats and the Samajwadi Party 63. In the 2019 elections, turning the arithmetic of the SP-BSP 'Mahagatbandhan' in Uttar Pradesh upside down, the BJP and its ally Apna Dal (S) won 64 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats.

For first time, a political party has promised to destroy Constitution: Rahul Gandhi

TDG NETWORK BALANGIR (ODISHA)

Speaking at a rally in Balangir on Wednesday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said that for the first time in the country's political history, a political party has allegedly promised in its poll campaign that if they win the elections, they will be uprooting the Constitution. "For the first time, a political party has said that if they come to power they will be destroying the Constitution. This Constitution gave rights to the poor, backward, Dalits, Adivasis, minorities, farmers, and labourers of India. And today, big leaders of the BJP say that if they win the elections, they will uproot this book. I want to



tell every BJP leader and worker that, let alone Narendra Modi, no power in the world can touch this book," Rahul

Gandhi said. Rahul Gandhi said that the BJP wants to snatch away the benefits of reservation that were given by Ambedkar, Gandhi, and Jawaharlal Nehru to the Dalits, Adivasis and backward classes in the country. "If you try to rip the Constitution, just see what the country and the Congress party do with you. Big leaders of the BJP gave statements that if they win, they will end reservations. They are trying to take away the tool, the weapon of reservation that was given by Ambedkar, Gandhi, and Jawaharlal Nehru to the Dalits, Adivasis and backward classes," he said. Rahul Gandhi said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has waived off loans worth 24 years of MGNREGA

wages for 22 billionaires but did not waive loans for farmers, or students and did not even give loans to small traders. "They have sold off the entire public sector to the capitalists. They have only worked for 22 billionaires. He has waived off the loans of 22 people worth Rs 16 lakh crore. This amounts to MGNREGA wages for 24 years. They did not waive off loans to farmers, or students, and did not give loans to small traders," he said. Slamming the BJP, Rahul Gandhi said that the government has sidelined the poor and the farmers and has only worked for 22-25 individuals. "The government has sidelined you. You have so much burden, on the shoulders of poor, farmers, that wherever you go you can feel it.

'NO LEHER BUT ZEHER IN PM MODI'S LANGUAGE', SAYS JAIRAM RAMESH

ANAND SINGH
RANCHI

Calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "bluff master," Congress General Secretary Jai Ram Ramesh on Wednesday said that PM Modi is the first Prime Minister whose basic principle is "Asatyameva Jayate," adding that there is no "leher but zeher" in his language.

Speaking to ANI, Jai Ram Ramesh said that PM Modi's entire campaign has been based on Hindu-Muslim.

"Everyone knows it and everyone has seen it. Today, he says that if he does Hindu-Muslim politics, he is not fit to lead a public life. Yes, you are not fit. Such a PM who doesn't speak the truth even by mistake... 'Satyameva Jayate' is written below our national emblem. He is the first



PM whose basic principle is 'Asatyameva Jayate'. Bluff and rule. He is a bluffer-master," Ramesh said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in an interview with News18, clarified his "infiltrators" and "those with more children" remarks and said that he did not only talk about Muslims but spoke about every poor family, adding that the day he starts doing Hindu-Muslim, he will be "unworthy of public life."

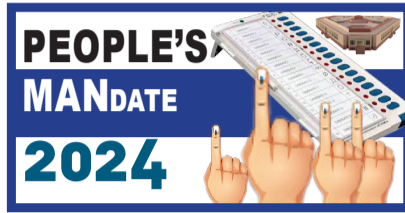
The Congress General Secretary in charge Communications said that the Prime Minister is spreading communal poison.

"There is no 'leher' but 'zeher'. There is 'zeher' in his language. He is spreading a pandemic of lies. So, I don't see any 'leher'. Had there been 'leher', there would not have been issues in his language. Why is he rattled?... Why is he pumping oxygen into polarisation again and again?" he said.

He further said that after the first two phases of the Lok Sabha elections, it has become clear that 'Dakshin Bharat mein BJP saaf aur Uttar, Poorvi aur Pashchim Bharat mein BJP half'.

"Polling has been held on 379 seats so far in 4 phases. After the first 2 phases, it became clear that 'Dakshin

Bharat mein BJP saaf aur Uttar, Poorvi aur Pashchim Bharat mein BJP half'. It is certain that on June 4, INDIA Alliance parties will get a clear and decisive mandate. There appear to be issues in PM's language, he seems worried. HM says anything.



But the truth is that their campaigning is not working, there is no wave. There is resentment, people want change... Everyone is impressed with our guarantee card... Nobody had expected the change in 2004... But who formed the government in 2004? Who got the mandate?" he said.

Kerala needs to wrap Mammooty away from poison of hate campaigns: Venugopal

TDG NETWORK
ERNAKULAM

Congress General Secretary K C Venugopal has come out in support of three-time National Award winning veteran actor and film producer Mammooty, who has been facing virulent online criticism in connection with his 2022 released film 'Puzhu'.

Venugopal took to his social media account to lash out in Malayalam against the hate speech directed against Mammooty. Recently posts on social media platforms claimed that the movie 'Puzhu' released in 2022 was anti-Brahminical.

Venugopal's post read, "In Sathyan Mash's last film 'Anubhavgal Palichakkal', he became the voice and face of Malayalam cinema from a 20-year-old boy who stood



beside actor Bahadur for the first time in the silver light in a minute-long scene. The name Mammooty stands among the actors who have given Malayalam cinema a beautiful address at the top of world cinema during his half-century of career."

Venugopal highlighted the efforts by 72-year-old Mammooty for Malayalam cinema. "When Malayalam cinema was going through historical stages of its

today is due to the hatred in the minds of those hate mongers."

He concluded his post, "The secular society of Kerala will not cooperate no matter how much they try to slander a person with a correct political view and sense of acting. Mammooty's caste and religion are the same as Mammooty's voice and face seen in Malayalee meals and sleep for fifty years. It is Kerala that needs to wrap Malayalam's Mammooty away from the poison of hate campaigns. It has no colour of politics, no colour. Mammooty alone is enough."

The husband of Ratheena PT, the debutant director of the film 'Puzhu' had in a recent interview claimed that the movie was against a particular community and criticised Mammooty for doing the film. The video of the interview was shared widely online.

EC summons Andhra Pradesh DGP, Chief Secretary over post-poll violence in state

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday summoned the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police (DGP) of Andhra Pradesh to New Delhi tomorrow to "personally explain" the recent surge in post-poll violence in the state, sources said.

This directive comes as the ECI takes a stringent stance on the failure of the local administration to contain the unrest following the elections. According to the sources, the Commission has demanded a detailed explanation from the officials regarding the lapses in maintaining law and order and the preemptive measures being implemented to prevent further incidents. The ECI

emphasised the continued enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct and the necessity for stringent actions to ensure peace.

The ECI has repeatedly emphasised that there is no place for violence in a democracy and since the announcement of Lok Sabha elections, Chief Election Commissioner Raviv Kumar has been personally monitoring the election space to ensure peaceful and violence-free conduct of polls.

Post-poll violence was reported in parts of Andhra Pradesh on Monday.

Earlier on the fourth phase of Lok Sabha election day, May 13, YSRC MLA from Tenali, Annabattula Shivakumar, triggered controversy for allegedly hitting a voter standing in a queue at a polling booth in Andhra

Pradesh's Guntur district. He claimed that the man was drunk, made casteist remarks against him and was abusing him and his wife.

Meanwhile, YSRC and TDP workers clashed near Narasaraopet Municipal High School polling station in Palnadu district of Andhra Pradesh and police fired rubber bullets to control the situation here on Monday.

Polling for all 175 seats of the State Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh was held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls on Monday. The ruling YSRC is contesting on all 175 seats, eyeing another term, while as part of a seat-sharing arrangement among NDA partners, TDP is contesting on 144 assembly seats, Jana Sena on 21 and BJP on 10.

BJP chief Nadda asks Rahul to 'at least read' Constitution

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

Taking potshots at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for moving around with a copy of the Constitution, BJP national president JP Nadda said that he "does not know" about the educational qualifications of the former Congress chief but advised him to "at least read the Constitution."

His remarks came in the backdrop of the Congress leader often holding a copy of the Constitution in his public rallies. The former Congress chief has alleged that the BJP if it comes to power after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, will attempt to "rewrite" the Constitution.

"Rahul Gandhi is moving around with a copy of the Constitution. I don't know about his educational quali-



fications. At least read the Constitution. Baba Saheb Ambedkar has said that there could be no reservation based on religion. And (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) ji has said, 'As long as he is alive and the BJP party is there, no one can lay hands on the reservation of the Dalits, Adivasis, and others,'" Nadda said.

The BJP chief was addressing a public meeting in Bihar's Motihari. He also hit out at Rashtriya Janata Dal Chief Lalu Prasad Yadav.

"Lalu ji ne chara khaya ya nahi... Naukari kai badlaim zameen hadpi ya nahi" (was not Lalu involved in the fodder scam? Grabbed land in exchange for jobs). Do you need such jobs in exchange for the lands of the poor?...," the BJP chief asked the gathering.

Lashing out at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is out on interim bail in an excise policy case, Nadda said, "Has Arvind Kejriwal not done a liquor and drug scam? He is out on bail till June 1. Will he not go back to jail on June 2? Isn't Manish Sisodia in jail? They have a relationship between jail and bail."

Union Minister and BJP candidate from Begusarai, Giriraj Singh, told reporters in Patna, "Former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav is nervous... We will not allow 'jungle raj' (lawlessness)... We have

leaders like (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Samrat Choudhary, and Rashtriya Lok Samta Party leader Upendra Kushwaha. That's why they are afraid."

Earlier in the day, Lok Janshakti Party National President and party candidate from Bihar's Hajipur, Chirag Paswan, told reporters that there is "no unity" in the I.N.D.I. alliance.

"If Tejashwi (Yadav) has to use the name of our Chief Minister for electoral gains, it clearly shows that they are so weak without our Chief Minister... By using the name of CM they (BJD) are attempting to improve their position by creating confusion... The public knows how strong our National Democratic Alliance is... There is no unity in the INDI alliance..."

'Mamata Banerjee misleading people on CAA': Giriraj Singh

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

Coming out all guns blazing at Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Union Minister Giriraj Singh on Wednesday alleged that she was planning to turn Bengal into a 'Muslim state'.

Also gunning for her partners in the Opposition bloc-INDIA, Giriraj said they were working to make the country an 'Islamic state'.

Drawing a parallel between the TMC supreme and the North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the Union Minister told ANI, "Mamata Banerjee wants Bengal to be a Muslim (majority) state. Ahead of the last elections (2021 assembly



elections), a minister in her government gave journalists a guided tour of what he called 'mini-Pakistan'. This goes to show that she wants to turn Bengal into a mini-Pakistan." "If voted back at the Centre, we will implement the National Register of Citizens, Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the Uniform Civil Code, as well as measures towards population control. We will

put an end to her (Mamata's) dictatorship like Kim Jong Un," Singh added.

He reiterated that the Bloc partners were working towards "enforcing Islamic rule on the country, along the lines of Congress-ruled Karnataka where Muslims were granted OBS status (enabling them to benefit from the quotas guaranteed for the community).

"Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and (former Bihar chief minister) Lalu Yadav style themselves as the well-wishers of backward communities. However, they (Congress) deprived them of their share of quotas by giving Muslims the status of OBC in Karnataka.

Will take forward Atalji's dream for Lucknow: Rajnath

TDG NETWORK
LUCKNOW

Union Defence Minister and BJP's candidate from Lucknow, Rajnath Singh, said that he tried to fulfil the dreams of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and left no stone unturned for the city's development.

Addressing a public meeting in Lucknow, the Defence Minister on Tuesday remembered Atal Bihari Vajpayee's vision for Lucknow and said that he would take Vajpayee's vision forward.

"We have diligently worked towards realising Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji's vision for Lucknow, and we remain committed to advancing it further in the future. Lucknow currently ranks tenth glob-



ally, and we aim to elevate it to the fifth position," Singh said.

He further thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for their wholehearted support in the progress of Lucknow.

"PM Modi has all its support in the constituency's development. However, the pace of developmental work is possible because of the CM. CM Yogi instantaneous-

Singh said the BJP fulfilled all its promises made in the party manifesto, be it the abrogation of Article 370 or the construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

Minister Rajnath Singh, CM Yogi Adityanath said that India had become self-reliant in the defence sector and the state capital had become a centre for manufacturing BrahMos missiles

"For Lucknow, it was said, 'Muskurayie, Aap Lucknow mein hain' (Smile, you are in Lucknow). But there were not enough conditions to smile about. Now, New India is secure because the defence sector is 'Atma Nirbhar' as Lucknow is the centre of India's BrahMos missile. When

the missile made here roars at the borders, the enemy gets scared. When a cracker bursts somewhere, Pakistan clarifies that it was not it, because Pakistan is scared of the missile made in Lucknow," he said.

He said Gomti will soon get a new lease of life as Rajnath Singh had inaugurated the STP for it recently. Lucknow will vote in the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha elections on May 20. Rajnath Singh will face Samajwadi Party candidate Ravidas Mehrotra from this seat.

BJP's influence won't sway Odisha, says BJD's VK Pandian

TDG NETWORK
DEOGARH (ODISHA)

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader VK Pandian on Wednesday said that the incumbent Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik would be sworn in for another term on June 9.

He exuded confidence in BJD's victory in the Assembly elections and dismissed any potential impact of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Odisha, affirming it wouldn't sway Naveen Patnaik or the people of the state.

Speaking with ANI, VK Pandian said, "I understand that three Chief Ministers from BJP-ruled states are here as well as several Union



Ministers... They are trying to give booster doses to BJP! Second dose, third dose, they are trying hard to give a booster dose but I am confident that BJD is winning a three-fourth majority in the Assembly elections and Naveen Patnaik is taking oath on June 9..." He added further, "Naveen

Babu's flag will fly high. Naveen Babu has seen so many cyclones. The wind of these people (BJP) will not have any impact on him, or the people of Odisha."

Stating the government's intentions after taking oath, Pandian said, "With the blessings of the people of Odisha, Naveen Babu will

take oath on June 9, and the first signature will be for implementing the Bijuli scheme and 90 per cent of the people of Odisha will get the benefit."

Pandian outlined the government's post-oath objectives, stating, "With the blessings of Mahaprabhu (Lord Jagannath) and people, our favourite Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will again take oath on June 9 and his first order will be to provide free power supply for 90 per cent population of Odisha and extension of Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojna for all, including government servants..."

Notably, Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday addressed a public rally in Deogarh under the Sambalpur Lok Sabha constituency.

In his address to the people, he said, "No need to pay electricity bill from July this year. No bills will come from July. The opposition is lying. BJP leaders are shedding crocodile tears. Vote for BJD. Vote for Conch symbol and BJD candidates both in Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections."

Notably, Lok Sabha and assembly polls are being held simultaneously in Odisha. The four-phased Lok Sabha and assembly elections started on May 13 and will also be held on May 20, May 25 and June 1.

Asaduddin Owaisi questions PM over his 'infiltrators' remarks

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi as to why it took him so long to issue a "false clarification" over his "infiltrators" and "those with more children" remarks, widely seen referring to the Muslims.

He also alleged that PM Modi and the BJP have "spread countless lies" and "immense hatred" against Muslims in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

In a post on X, Owaisi said, "In his speech, Modi had called Muslims infiltrators and those with too many



children. Now he is saying that he was not talking about Muslims, he never used the Hindu-Muslim angle. Why did it take so long to give this false clarification? Modi's political journey has been based solely on anti-Muslim politics."

"In this election, Modi and the BJP have spread countless lies and immense hatred against Muslims. It's not just

Modi who is in the dock, but every voter who voted for the BJP despite these speeches," Owaisi added.

Clarifying his "infiltrators" and "those with more children" remarks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in an interview with News18 said that he did not only talk about Muslims but spoke about every poor family, adding that the day he started doing Hindu-Muslim, he will be "unworthy of public life." "In an interview with News 18, PM Modi said that he does not market love towards Muslims. "I do not work for a vote bank. I believe in Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas."

POLL CAMPAIGN HEATS UP



'IF PEOPLE VOTE FOR BJP, I WILL GO BACK TO JAIL'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A AP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said he will have to go back to jail, if people vote for the BJP, as he urged the electorate to choose INDIA bloc candidates. INDIA bloc parties AAP and Congress are contesting the Lok Sabha elections in Delhi in an alliance.

While holding a roadshow in Model Town in support of Congress' Chandni Chowk Lok Sabha poll candidate JP Agarwal, Kejriwal gave the slogan "Jo kare Kejriwal ko pyaar woh kare Modi ko inkaar (those who love Kejriwal reject Modi)".

The chief minister said his "fault" was providing good education to children, building good schools for them, opening Mohalla Clinics for people.

Delhi and Punjab," Kejriwal said.

"I was wondering why I was put in jail. What is my fault? These people are quite powerful," he said.

The chief minister said his "fault" was providing good education to children, building good schools for them, opening Mohalla Clinics and arranging for free medicines for people.

"Now, they are saying I will have to go jail again. It is in your hands whether I go to jail. If you choose lotus (the BJP's symbol), I will have to return to jail. If you choose INDIA bloc candidate, I won't have to go to jail," the AAP national convener said.

Excise policy case: Court adjourns arguments on charges till May 30

ASHISH SINHA
NEW DELHI

The Rouse Avenue Court on Wednesday deferred the hearing of arguments on charges against former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and others in the excise policy case till May 30.

The court adjourned the matter because a petition seeking postponement is pending before the Delhi High Court.

Special Judge Kaveri Bawja informed that the Arun Ramchandra Pillai's petition was listed in the High Court on May 13, but the bench did not assemble.

The special court has started to hear the arguments of the CBI on charges against the accused in the Delhi Excise policy case.

During the hearing counsels for accused persons had

strongly opposed the commencement of argument charges.

An application seeking a postponement of hearing arguments on charges has also been moved before the trial court.

The court had asked the CBI to make a table of allegations, and statements for arguments.

It was submitted that in the previous order of the court, liberty was given that if any other accused is arrested and a supplementary charge sheet is filed, then the accused persons may raise this issue before the court.

It was also submitted that after the order of the court K Kavita was arrested in this case. Advocate Rajat Bhardwaj had submitted that in light of the court's previous order, the arguments on the charge should be postponed.

Delhi's AQI reaches poor category

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

After the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi reached poor category on Wednesday, the GRAP sub-committee reviewed the air quality and directed the relevant authorities to urgently implement dust abatement measures and monitor them.

Delhi's overall Air Quality Index (AQI) clocked 243 ('Poor' category) on date, as per the Daily AQI Bulletin from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

"Delhi's overall Air Quality Index (AQI) clocked 243 ('Poor' category) on date, as per the Daily AQI Bulletin from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Tak-

ing note of the increase in the average air quality of Delhi-NCR over past few days, the Sub-Committee for invoking actions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) of the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR & Adjoining Areas (CAQM) accordingly met today to take stock of the current air quality scenario of Delhi-NCR and also assess technical as well as expert inputs related to forecasts for overall air quality of Delhi-NCR put forward by IITM/IMD," the Ministry of Environment said in a press release.

"While reviewing the air quality scenario in the region, it was informed that the wind direction and speeds are rapidly changing

due to high convection rates and absolute dry conditions coupled with high temperatures leading to continued suspension of dust over the National Capital Region (NCR)," as per the release.

Further, it was deliberated that higher instances of agricultural residue burning in and around NCR areas and also the forest fires in the nearby states could also be having an impact on the overall air quality of Delhi-NCR, they said in the release.

The Sub-Committee for GRAP, after comprehensively reviewing the air quality scenario, directed the concerned Pollution Control Boards and the stakeholders/agencies concerned to take the following urgent steps.

BJP stages protest outside Kejriwal's residence

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party workers on Wednesday staged a protest outside Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence over an alleged assault incident against Aam Aadmi Party's Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal and questioned the "silence" of the Delhi CM.

Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party President Virendra Sachdeva said that there is a "big conspiracy" behind what transpired in the house. "The sisters of Delhi have come here to fight for the respect of another sister. Swati Malliwal, former Chairperson of DCW who continuously talked about the security of women, is herself not safe, and that too in the CM's residence. Then you can clearly understand the situation in Delhi. Delhi CM is silent. Why is Kejriwal not lodging a police complaint against the person who is involved in it? There is a big conspir-

Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party President Virendra Sachdeva said that there is a "big conspiracy" behind what transpired in the house.

acy behind what transpired in the house. If police conduct an investigation, big revelations will come out," he said.

BJP leader Shaina NC said that an FIR should be registered if an atrocity is committed against Swati Maliwal. "If an atrocity is done on her, we would naturally want an FIR to be registered. Something seems to be amiss. AAP, which makes tall claims about women empowerment and safety—your own woman MP is not safe in your party," Shaina said.

Meanwhile, BJP Lok Sabha candidate from New Delhi, Bansuri Swaraj, condemned

the incident and said that the Delhi CM can't ensure the security of his own party's woman MP.

"I am shocked at why Arvind Kejriwal is silent on this issue. Till now, AAP has only condemned the incident, why has no action been taken by Arvind Kejriwal? If CM Arvind Kejriwal can't ensure the security of his own party's woman MP, then how can he ensure the security of females in Delhi?" Swaraj said. BJP leader Shehzad Poonawalla called the Aam Aadmi Party an "anti-women anarchist party" and questioned the silence of women leaders in the party.

Maliwal's actions pose potential challenges for Kejriwal

AJIT MAINDOLA
NEW DELHI

The Maliwal row in Delhi doesn't seem to end anytime soon. The ongoing Maliwal controversy in Delhi shows no signs of resolution. It's highly likely that the Swati Maliwal case will further escalate tensions for Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, who is currently out on interim bail. Although, the senior party leaders are trying to pacify the situation and convince Maliwal to probably loosen up and withdraw, yet Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement regarding Maliwal suggests significant implications. This raises the crucial question of what led to the altercation at the Chief Minister's residence. AAP leader Sanjay Singh acknowledged that Kejriwal's private secretary, Vibhav Kumar, had behaved inappropriately towards Maliwal, without disclosing the specifics of the misconduct.

This issue has become a moment to seize upon for

BJP. Capitalizing on the situation, the BJP has initiated a campaign against the Aam Aadmi Party. Consequently, pressure mounts on Maliwal to submit a report. Meanwhile, Naveen Jai Hind, Maliwal's divorced husband, has drawn attention by raising concerns about Maliwal's safety, further adding to the ongoing speculation.

With the BJP seizing the opportunity, a campaign against the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has been initiated. This has heightened pressure on Swati Maliwal to file a report. Meanwhile, her former husband, Naveen Jai Hind, who has divorced Maliwal, has brought attention to the matter by raising concerns about her safety.

These developments have sparked various questions and speculations, making it the focal point of ongoing discussions.

There are a few questions that are going around in this case.

Sanjay Singh meets Swati Maliwal

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

AAP Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh on Wednesday met party colleague Swati Maliwal, a day after the party accepted that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's personal assistant Bibhav Kumar "misbehaved" with her.

Sanjay Singh was accompanied by Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) member Vandana Singh during his meeting with Maliwal, sources said. The meeting took place at Maliwal's residence, they added.

Calls and messages to Maliwal, who is an Aam

Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha member and a former chief of the DCW, did not elicit any response. Maliwal on Monday went to the Civil Lines police station and alleged that a member of the Delhi chief minister's personal staff "assaulted" her at the chief minister's official residence, police officials had said. She is yet to file a formal complaint in the matter.

On Tuesday, Sanjay Singh addressed a press conference and said the incident with Maliwal was a "highly condemnable" one.

Police had also visited her residence on Minto Road on Tuesday.

HC: Auto fare higher than airline fare

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Observing that airline industry is "very very competitive" and the players are running "huge losses", the Delhi High Court on Wednesday said it would not be appropriate to pass any directions for the capping of airfares across the country. "Market forces will decide the pricing of tickets. The industry is doing very well today. You look at any airline flying today, it is a highly competitive industry. An auto rickshaw fare is more than the airline fare today," a bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet PS Arora said.

The court disposed of two petitions seeking regulation of pricing of flight tickets and said it would pass a detailed

"It is a well-controlled sector. Every industry which is doing well need not be tampered with," the bench said.

order. "Today the industry is very very competitive. You will find those who are running airlines are into huge losses," the bench said, adding huge investment is coming in this sector and "let's not make it more regulated".

"It is a well-controlled sector. Every industry which is doing well need not be tampered with," the bench said.

It said stray incidents will not require the court to entertain public interest litigations (PIL) on the issue and bring the entire sector under any new regulation.

The two PILs were filed by advocate Amit Sahni and consumer rights activist Bejon Misra, through lawyer Shashank Deo Sudhi.

The petitioners urged the court to pass directions to cap airfares across the country so that customers are not "fleece arbitrarily" by airlines. The counsel for the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) opposed the plea and submitted that the airfares depend on the routes as well as the availability of planes and sometimes there are very few passengers in the aircraft and yet they fly.

One killed in Shakarpur warehouse fire

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

One person was killed after a massive fire broke out at a warehouse in the Shakarpur area of New Delhi on Wednesday, an official said.

According to Fire Officer Darshan Kumar, as soon as the information was received, the fire vehicles reached the scene and doused the fire.

"I received a call at 5:10 AM regarding a fire, and as soon as we got the call, we immediately went to the spot. Upon arriving, we saw that there was a significant fire, especially on the ground floor and top floor, with a lot of material inside the building. We took immediate action and doused the fire," Kumar said. "The roof of the building has been damaged and the building can collapse too," he added.



He also said that further investigation revealed the loss of one life due to the fire.

Despite the fire being brought under control, cooling operations are still ongoing, approximately eight hours after the incident.

The fire broke out in a two-storied building at a 100-square-yard plot. The building with one ground floor and two rooms on the first floor, according to reports had a paper godown operating at the plot and registered in the name of Bhumi Trading Company.

The deceased labourer, identified as Satendar Paswan from Bihar's Nalanda used to work and sleep in the godown. Fire personnel found the charred body of Paswan near the stairs.

The body has been sent for a postmortem, and the team has collected all the evidence from the spot.

The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained, police said.

An FIR has been lodged against Munna Kumar, owner of the building and an investigation has been started.

Couple arrested for duping people on pretext of providing jobs

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A married couple have been arrested for allegedly duping people on the pretext of providing government jobs, police on Wednesday said. Both the accused were allegedly changing their address and identities for last six months to evade arrest, they said.

The accused have been identified as Vikas Tyagi (35), and his wife Amita Tyagi, both residents of Ghaziabad, police said.

"On May 10, the staff of the north district police received a tip-off regard-

ing a proclaimed offender couple involved in a case of cheating registered against them in Laxmi Nagar Police Station," Deputy Commissioner of Police (north) said.

The officer further said that they were hiding themselves inside a rented flat in Govind Puram in Ghaziabad and a raid was conducted and both were apprehended.

"Both told police that they have been cheating people on the pretext of providing government jobs to the candidates who are preparing for the government jobs examinations," said the DCP.

LS Poll :Traffic restrictions near DTU

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Wednesday said there will be some traffic restrictions for two days from Thursday near the Delhi Technological University (DTU) as a training programme will be held in connection with the Lok Sabha elections. In order to ensure smooth traffic management in the area and for an uninterrupted journey, the commuters are advised to plan their journey in advance, they said.

A training programme related to the Lok Sabha elections to be held on May 25 for all the seven Lok Sabha constituencies in Delhi has been scheduled on Thurs-



day and Friday, in the DTU, Shahbad Daulatpur, the officials said.

In view of it, there will be some traffic restrictions in the area on Thursday and Friday from 7 am to 7 pm, they said. The commuters coming from the Shahbad Dairy side towards the DTU/Samaypur Badli Metro Station will reach their destination via St Xavier's red light and KN Katju Marg, police said.

The commuters coming from the Samaypur Badli Metro/Rohini Sector-18 and 19, towards the Shahbad Dairy will go via Rohini Sector-16 to reach the KN Katju Marg. The commuters are also advised to follow the directions of the traffic police personnel deployed in the area to avoid inconvenience, it added.

File Photo

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DIPS TO 6.7% IN MARCH QUARTER: SURVEY

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The unemployment rate for people aged 15 years and above in urban areas declined to 6.7 per cent in the January-March period from 6.8 per cent a year ago, according to the National Sample Survey Survey (NSSO).

Joblessness, or unemployment rate, is defined as the percentage of unemployed people in the labour force.

The unemployment rate in the March quarter of FY23 was 6.8 per cent, while it was 6.6 per cent in April-June as well as in the third quarter (July-September 2023) of the previous fiscal. It was 6.5 per cent in October-December 2023.

The unemployment rate for people aged 15 years and above in January-March 2024 was 6.7 per cent in urban areas, the 22nd Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) showed.

It also showed that the unemployment rate among females (aged 15 years and above) in urban areas declined to 8.5 per cent in January-March 2024 from 9.2 per cent in the same quarter a year ago.

It was 9.1 per cent in April-June 2023, 8.6 per cent in July-September 2023, and 8.6 per cent in October-December 2023.

Among males, the unemployment rate in urban areas rose to 6.1 per cent in January-March 2024 compared to 6 per cent in the year-ago period. It was 5.9 per cent in April-June 2023, 6 per cent in July-September 2023, and 5.8 per cent in October-December 2023.

Labour force participation rate in Current Weekly Status (CWS) in urban areas for people aged 15 years and above increased to 50.2 per cent in the January-March 2024, from 48.5 per cent in the same period a year ago.

It was 48.8 per cent in April-June 2023, 49.3 per cent in July-September 2023 and 49.2 per cent in October-December 2023.

Labour force refers to the part of the population, which supplies or offers to supply labour for pursuing economic activities for the production of goods and



Among males, the unemployment rate in urban areas rose to 6.1 per cent in January-March 2024 compared to 6 per cent in the year-ago period.

services and, therefore, includes both employed and

unemployed persons.

The NSSO launched PLFS in April 2017.

On the basis of PLFS, a quarterly bulletin is brought out giving estimates of labour force indicators namely unemployment rate, worker population ratio (WPR), labour force participation rate (LFPR), distribution of workers by broad

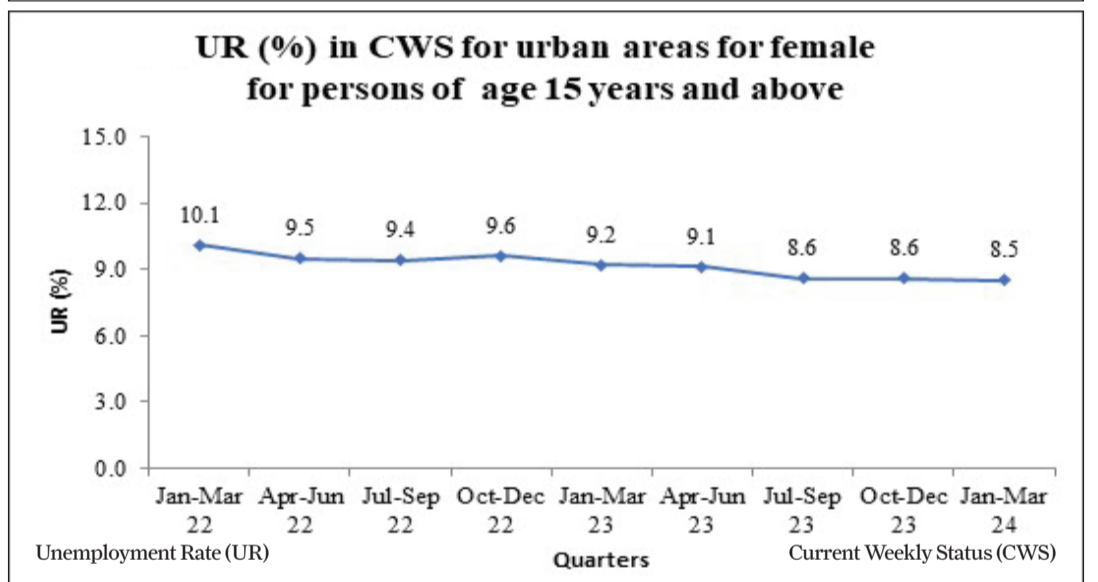
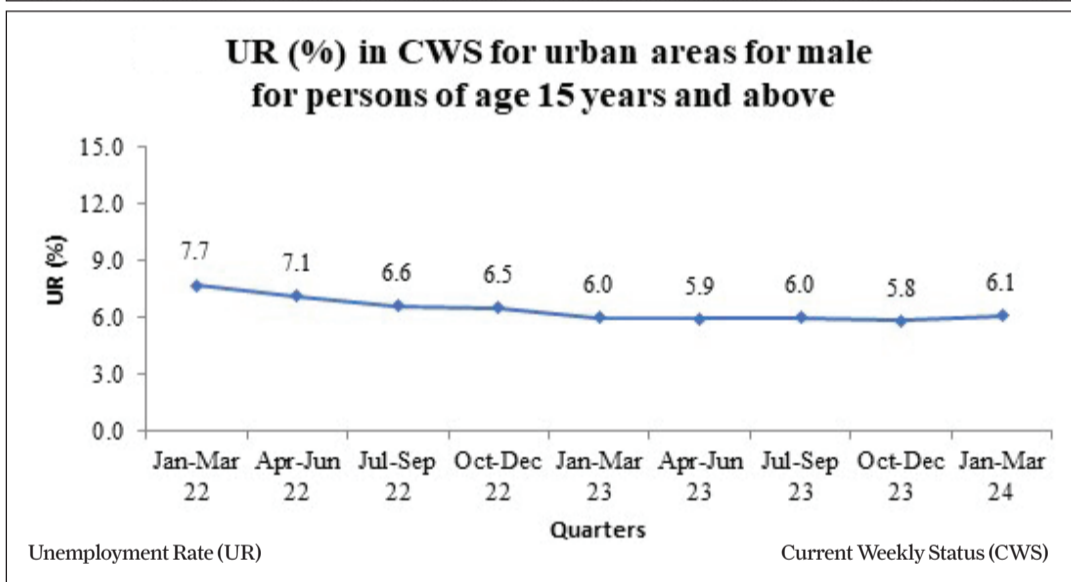
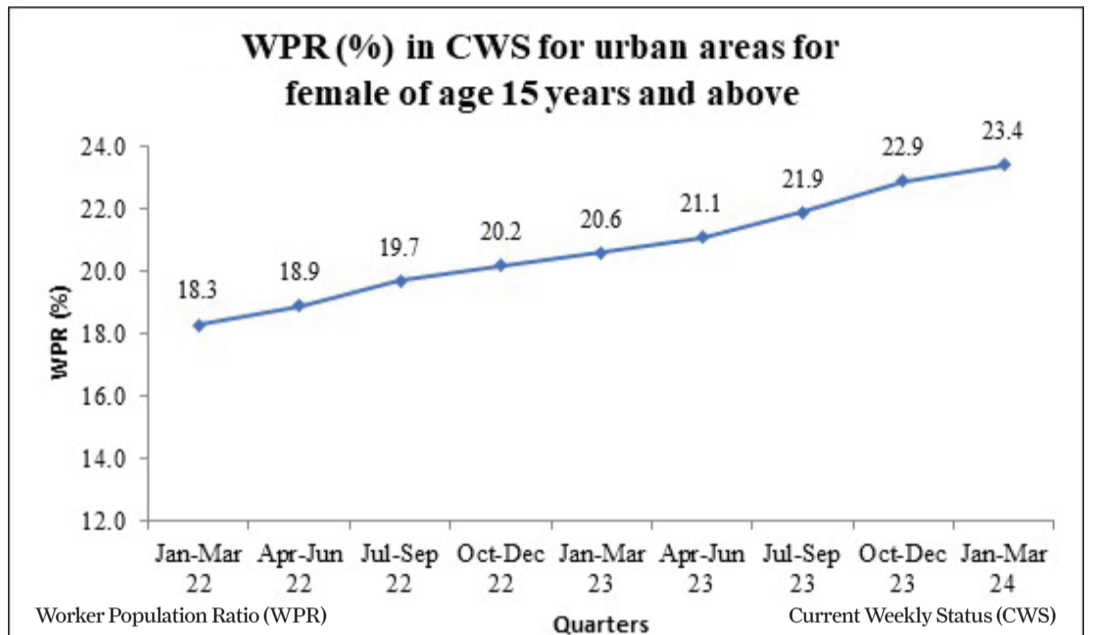
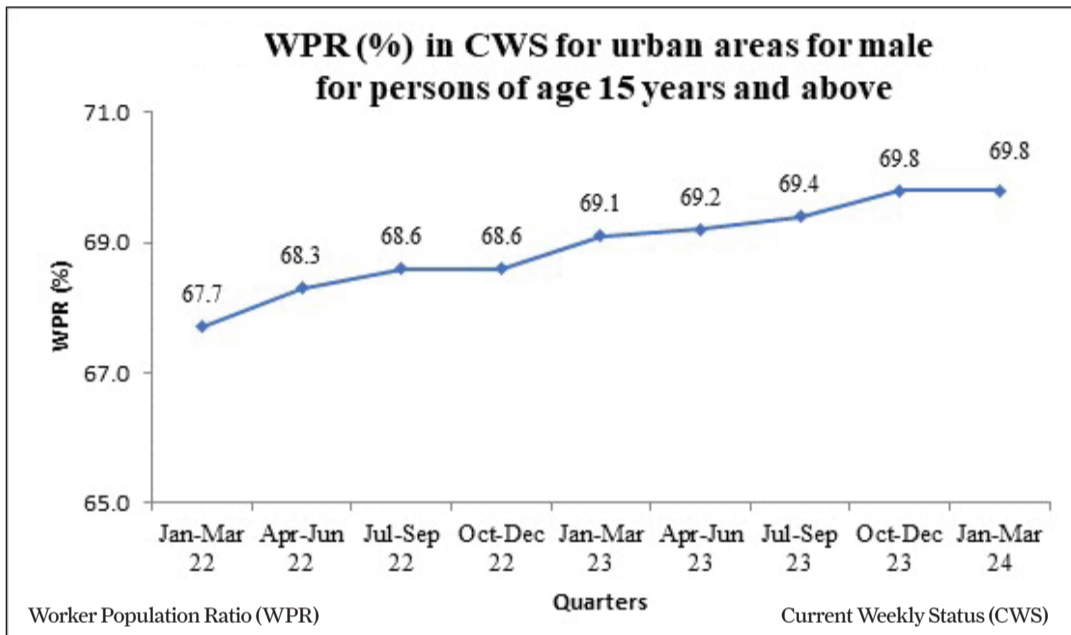
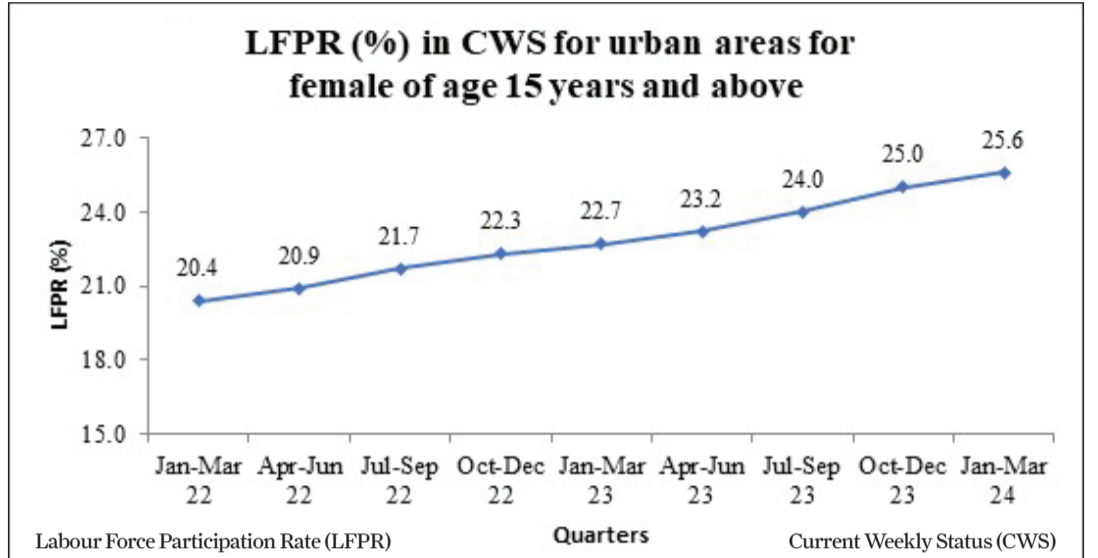
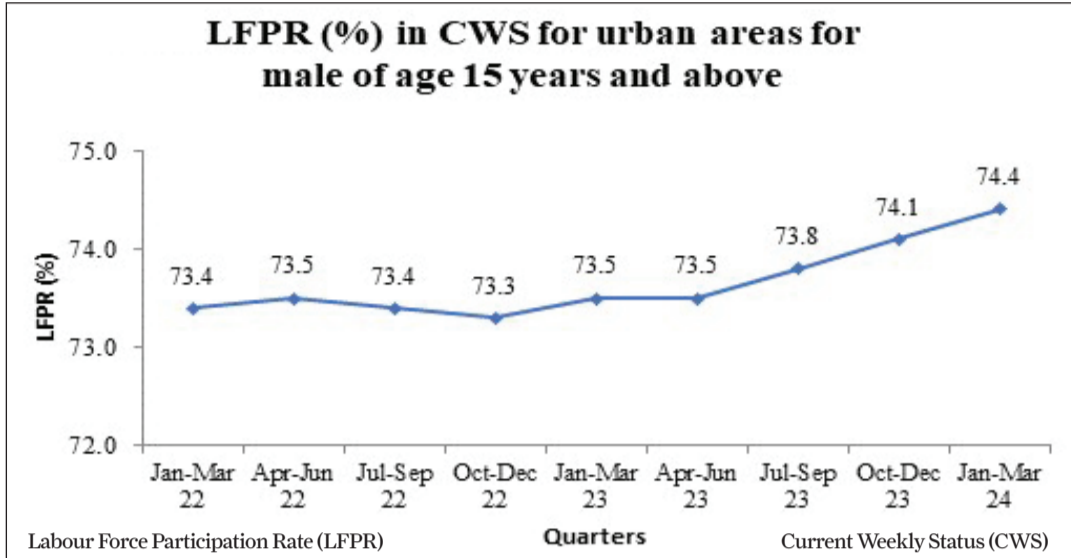
status in employment and industry of work in CWS.

The estimates of unemployed persons in CWS give an average picture of unemployment in a short span of seven days during the survey period.

In the CWS approach, a person is considered unemployed if he/she did not work even for one hour on

any day during the week but sought or was available for work at least for one hour on any day during the period.

Labour force, according to CWS, is the number of persons either employed or unemployed on average in a week preceding the date of the survey. LFPR is defined as the percentage of the population in the labour force.



THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY	
SURVEY ON HINDU-MUSLIM POLITICS	DATE: 15 TH MAY 2024
MALE: 95%	FEMALE: 5%
Q-1 Has Hindu-Muslim become the biggest issue in the 2024 elections?	
A-Yes	54.00%
B-No	44.00%
C-Can't say	2.00%
Q-2 Who is doing Hindu-Muslim politics during elections?	
A- BJP	19.00%
B-Congress	24%
C-AIMIM	8%
D-TMC	5%
E-Regional parties	6%
F-all of these	25%
G-can't say	13%
Q-3 Has the politics of Muslim appeasement harmed the country?	
A-Yes	64%
B-No	34%
C-Can't say	2%
Q-4 Is the Election Commission taking action on statements spreading religious fanaticism in election rallies?	
A-Yes	44%
B-No	48%
C-Can't say	8%
Q-5 While voting, what do you give the most importance in selecting an MP?	
A- Personality and work	74%
B- Caste and religion	7%
C- Political party	12%
D-Can't say	7%

THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY	
SURVEY ON POK	DATE: 15 TH MAY 2024
MALE: 94%	FEMALE: 6%
Q-1 If PM Modi gets the third term, will he make Pakistan wear bangles?	
A- Yes	83%
B-No	14%
C-Can't say	3%
Q-2 If PM Modi gets the third term, will he completely free PoK from Pakistan's occupation?	
A-Yes	81%
B-No	17%
C-Can't say	2%
Q-3 Who do you believe played the biggest role in India's complete occupation of PoK?	
A-Central Government	48%
B- Indian Army	40%
C- Rebel people of PoK	9%
D-Can't say	3%
Q-4 If the Indian Army starts the operation, how much time will it take to capture PoK?	
A- 24 hours	59%
B- one month	12%
C- one year	5%
D- Capture is not easy	12%
E-Can't say	12%

CAA GETS ROLLING, FIRST SET OF 14 PEOPLE GRANTED CITIZENSHIP

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The first set of citizenship certificates under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act was issued Wednesday here to 14 people, nearly two months after rules under the contentious law were notified to grant Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants from three neighbouring countries.

Sources said 14 people were handed over the certificates symbolically at a special function held here while digitally signed certificates are also being sent to a "few hundred" other applicants through email.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah termed it a "historic day", saying the decades-



long wait of those who faced religious persecution in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan is over.

Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla handed over the certificates to the 14 people after their applications were processed online through a designated portal, an official spokesperson said.

This comes in the midst of the general elections which

started on April 19. The last phase of polling will be held on June 1 while the counting will take place on June 4.

The CAA was enacted in December 2019 for granting Indian nationality to persecuted Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian migrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who came to India on or before December 31, 2014.

After the enactment, the CAA got the president's assent but the rules under which the Indian citizenship was granted were issued on March 11 after over a delay of four years.

"It is a great feeling to be an Indian. It has given a new life to me," 24-year-old Bharat Kumar, who had come from Sindh in Pakistan 11 years ago, told PTI minutes after he received the citizenship certificate.

Shah said the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian brothers and sisters who fled religious persecution in the three countries have started getting Indian citizenship and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has fulfilled the promise made at the time of the country's independence.

Avoid narrow view, says EAM on US warning Chabahar Port

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

A day after the US warned of "potential risk of sanctions" after India inked a 10-year agreement for running the Chabahar Port in Iran, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar emphasised that the project will benefit the entire region and people should not take a "narrow view" of it.

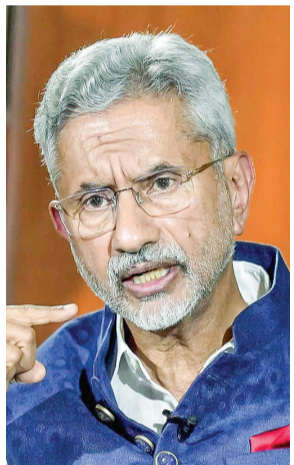
He also pointed out that the US itself had appreciated the larger relevance of Chabahar in the past.

The EAM was speaking at an interaction after the launch of the Bangla edition of his book 'Why Bharat Matters' in Kolkata on Tuesday.

On being asked about the US' remarks, Jaishankar said, "I did see some of the remarks which were made, but I think it's a question of communicating, convincing and getting people to understand, that this is actually for everyone's benefit. I don't think people should take a narrow view of it."

"They (US) have not done so in the past. So, if you look at the US' own attitude towards the port in Chabahar, the US has been appreciative of the fact that Chabahar has a larger relevance...we will work at it," he added.

Earlier on Tuesday, the United States warned that



"anyone" considering business deals with Tehran needs to be aware of the "potential risk of sanctions."

"I would just say...US sanctions on Iran remain in place and we will continue to enforce them," the US State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson, Vedant Patel said at the press briefing.

"Any entity, anyone considering business deals with Iran, they need to be aware of the potential risk they are opening themselves up to, potential risk of sanctions," he added.

The Long-Term Bilateral Contract on Chabahar Port Operation was signed between Indian Ports Global Limited (IPGL) of India and the Port & Maritime Organisation (PMO) of Iran on Monday, enabling the operation of Shahid-Beheshti port in the Chabahar Port Devel-

opment Project for a period of 10 years.

Jaishankar further said that India had a long association with the project, but was not able to sign a long-term pact, which was important. He added that New Delhi was able to sort out the issues and sign the long-term agreement, which will benefit the entire region.

"We have had a long association with the Chabahar Port, but we could never sign a long-term agreement. The reason was...there were various problems on the Iranian end...the joint-venture partner changes, the condition changed," the Foreign Minister said.

He added, "Finally, we were able to sort this out and we were able to get the long-term agreement done. The long-term agreement is necessary, because without it you cannot really improve the port operation. And the port operation we believe, will benefit the entire region."

The Chabahar Port is an India-Iran flagship project that serves as an important transit port for trade with Afghanistan and Central Asian countries, which are landlocked countries. India has been a key player in the development and operation of Chabahar Port.

CJI: Tech in judiciary, 7.5 lakh cases via VC

TDG NETWORK
LUCKNOW

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud said on Wednesday the Supreme Court has heard over 7,50,000 cases via video-conferencing and more than 1,50,000 cases were filed online as technology has re-negotiated the relationship between law and enforcement agencies, including the judiciary.

Addressing the J20 Summit at Rio de Janeiro on 'Digital transformation and the use of technology to enhance judicial efficiency', the CJI referred to India's achievements and said, "Virtual hearings have democratised access to the Supreme Court." J20 is a summit of the heads of supreme courts or the constitutional courts of G20 member states and is being organised by the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court in light of Brazil's Presidency of G20 this year.

The CJI said the Indian Supreme Court's Case Management System has been developed on Free and Open Source Software (FOSS), and is "the largest case management system in the world".

ED arrests Alam in laundering case

TDG NETWORK
RANCHI

The Enforcement Directorate Wednesday arrested Congress leader and Jharkhand Rural Development Minister Alamgir Alam in a money laundering case, official sources said.

The 70-year-old was taken into custody at the agency's zonal office here under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after about six hours of interrogation on the second day of questioning, the sources said.

He was grilled by the federal agency Tuesday for over nine hours and his statement was also recorded.

The agency had last week arrested Alam's personal



The 70-year-old was taken into custody at the agency's zonal office here under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after about six hours of interrogation on the second day of questioning, the sources said.

secretary and state administrative service officer Sanjeev Kumar Lal (52) and the latter's domestic help Jahangir Alam

(42) following the seizure of more than Rs 32 crore cash from a flat linked to them. The money laundering in-

vestigation pertains to alleged irregularities and payment of "bribes" in the state rural development department.

While seeking the remand of the two arrested persons, the ED had informed a special PMLA court here that Lal collected "commission" on behalf of some influential people and that government officials from "top to bottom" in the rural department are involved in the alleged illegal cash payments nexus.

The total seizure of cash by the ED in this case has been recorded at around Rs 36.75 crore as the agency seized about Rs 3 crore from other locations including Rs 10.05 lakh from Lal's place and Rs 1.5 crore from a contractor's place.

EC operating under Modi's directions, says Mamata

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister on Wednesday labeled the Election Commission (EC) as a "puppet" operating under the directives of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing an election rally at Chinsurah, Hooghly district, Banerjee criticised the EC for scheduling the polls over a period of two months, alleging that this decision favoured the saffron party while disregarding the hardships faced by the common people due to excessive heat.

The Election Commission is a puppet

and operates according to Modi's directions. Poll is being held for two-and-half months, have you (poll officials) ever realised the struggle of the common people," Banerjee said.

Accompanying the party's Hooghly nominee actress Rachana Banerjee, the CM accused Modi of violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) by allegedly announcing plans to expand the Ayushman Bharat Yojana to cover senior citizens over 70 years of age during the ongoing elections.

"Why are you saying this now when the elections are on? You should have announced this earlier..."

Modi babu, you are violating the MCC," she said.

Banerjee expressed skepticism about the BJP's ambitious target of achieving 400 seats in the Lok Sabha elections.

"BJP is claiming of winning 400 seats, but people are saying it will not happen this time. We (TMC) will support the INDIA bloc from outside to form a government at the Centre," she said.

Banerjee declared her party's unwavering stance against the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), National Register of Citizens (NRC), and Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Bengal.

Several Kanpur schools get bomb threat via email

TDG NETWORK
KANPUR

Several schools in Kanpur received bomb threats through emails, triggering panic in the city.

This comes amid a spate of such emails threatening schools and hospitals in several cities including those in the Delhi-NCR region and Jaipur.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Harish Chander said, "Kanpur Police received information about a bomb threat to various schools. The cyber cell is investigating the matter. All officials are instructed to monitor CCTV footage thoroughly to establish a link between this threat and previous bomb threats which were received by multiple schools, airports and hospitals." He also urged parents not to create a panic situation as police had initiated a probe.

"I request all parents not to panic. We are taking all precautionary measures. Police will approach you regarding the case and action will be taken soon," the top police official further said.

Several schools in Rajasthan's capital city Jaipur received bomb threats via email on Monday. Students and staff of these schools were evacuated following the threat messages. Police teams, along with bomb squads were rushed to the schools to undertake bomb tracing exercises.

Protests in Uttarkashi over Chardham Yatra mismanagement

TDG NETWORK
DEHRADUN

Hoteliers and traders staged protests in Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand on Wednesday against alleged mismanagement of the Chardham yatra. They took out a procession along the highway in the Paligad area of the district under the banner of Yamuna Ghati Mahasangh and raised slogans against the state government for alleged chaos prevailing along the Yatra route and causing inconvenience to the pilgrims.

"Pilgrims are being made to wait inside their vehicles for 10-12 hours on an average at various points along the route to Yamunotri. After the long wait, they are being told not to proceed further due to traffic jams on the route. This is disturbing the schedule of their journey and many pilgrims are returning without darshan in Yamunotri," Yamuna Ghati Hotel Association president Soban Singh Rana said.

He said that the Chief Minister should take immedi-



ate action to streamline the arrangements to ensure a smooth yatra for the pilgrims.

The number of pilgrims visiting Yamunotri and Gangotri this time has broken the previous year's records within less than a week since the beginning of the Chardham yatra on May 10.

A record 15,630 pilgrims visited Yamunotri on Tuesday. Meanwhile, Gangotri also received a record 18,973 pilgrims on May 11, as per the official data.

With an unprecedented number of pilgrims visiting Chardham this year, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had asked his sec-

retary R Meenakshi Sundaram, a senior IAS officer to camp in Uttarkashi and monitor the management of the yatra to Gangotri and Yamunotri.

The Chief Minister himself is also maintaining a constant vigil, an official said.

Chief Secretary Radha Raturi issued instructions on Wednesday to immediately stop the movement of unregistered buses and vehicles on the Chardham Yatra route and send them back.

She also directed the Transport Department to hold a meeting with tour operators on the issue of vehicles without registration or trip cards.

SC slams U'khand for 'lackadaisical' approach in controlling forest fires

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Slamming the Uttarakhand government for its "lackadaisical" approach in controlling forest fires, the Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the state's chief secretary to personally present himself before it on May 17 to give explanation, including on utilisation of funds and vacancies in forest department.

Terming it a "very sorry state of affairs", the apex court said the state was just trying to find some excuse or the other.

A bench headed by Justice B R Gava directed that the staff and vehicles of the forest departments of states shall not be requisitioned for election

purposes or any other purposes like the 'Char Dham Yatra'.

"We are at pains to say that the approach of state of Uttarakhand in controlling forest fires is, to say the least, lackadaisical. Though action plans have been prepared and finalised, no steps are being taken for implementation of the same," said the bench, also comprising Justices SVN Bhatti and Sandeep Mehta.

The top court was hearing a plea on raging forest fires in Uttarakhand.

The bench said when funds from the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) were available and also sanctioned by the central authority.



HCL official dies in lift collapse in Rajasthan mine, 14 rescued

TDG NETWORK
NEEM KA THANA

A senior official of Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) who was trapped inside a copper mine in Rajasthan's Neem Ka Thana district died on Wednesday after disaster rescue personnel pulled out all 15 people who got trapped after a lift used to transport personnel inside the mine collapsed.



The Chief Vigilance Officer Upendra Pandey of the Public Sector Unit company, along with 14 other

personnel, were taken out of the Kolihan mine and rushed to hospitals for treatment.

IIT Mandi launches centre for Human-Computer Interaction

TDG NETWORK
MANDI

The establishment of the Centre for Human-Computer Interaction is a significant milestone in the nascent history of Technology Innovation Hub and IIT Mandi. The inaugural event was graced by esteemed personalities from Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, academia, and Industry.

Prof. Laxmidhar Behera,

Director, IIT Mandi welcomed the guests with his special address. The Hon'ble chief guest was Prof. M. Manivannan, Professor of Biomedical Engineering from the Department of Applied Mechanics at IIT Madras. Among other dignitaries were Dr. Ekta Kapoor, Mission Director of NMICPS at the Department of Science and Technology; Mr. Sowmya Narayan, Director of Architecture & Delivery at

Microsoft; Dr. Balamuralidhar P. Distinguished Chief Scientist (Retired) from TCS Research; Prof. Uttama Lahiri, Professor of Electrical Engineering from IIT Gandhinagar, Dr. Shubhrajit Roy Chowdhury, Chairperson of CHCI, Mr. Somjit Amrit, CEO of IIT Mandi iHub and Prof. Venkata Krishnan, Project Director, IIT Mandi iHub led the inaugural event as the host alongside other faculty and staff members.

CAA: Comprehending its consequences and controversies

OPINION

DR. ALISHA VERMA



Prior to the General Elections in 2024, the government officially announced the regulations for enforcing the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) 2019. This development has facilitated the process of providing citizenship to illegal migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan who are not of the Muslim faith. The government led by Prime Minister Modi will now start conferring Indian citizenship to non-Muslim migrants who have faced persecution in the mentioned countries and arrived in India before December 31, 2014, as a result of the implementation of the rules of the CAA. These groups include Christians, Parsis,

Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs, and Hindus.

WHAT IS CAA?

The Act, an amendment in the 1955 Citizenship Act, was initially presented in parliament in July 2016 and approved in December 2019. Prior to the implementation of the CAA, any non-Indian individual who wished to acquire Indian citizenship through the process of naturalization was required to have resided in India for a period of 11 years in order to meet the eligibility criteria. The CAA accelerates the process of granting Indian citizenship to individuals belonging to the Hindu, Parsi, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, and Christian communities. These individuals sought refuge in India due to religious persecution in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, which have Muslim-majority populations. The CAA applies to anyone who arrived in India before December 31, 2014. They attain eligibility for citizenship after a period of five years. Applicants belonging to the above reli-

gions are eligible, regardless of their existing residence in India without valid visas or other necessary documentation.

The primary objective of the CAA is to safeguard those who have sought asylum in India as a result of religious persecution. It provides them with protection from unlawful immigration procedures. The proposed amendment further has a clause for the revocation of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) registration in the event that the OCI cardholder contravenes any provision of the Citizenship Act or any other relevant legislation.

WHOM DOES CAA EXCLUDE?

Prior to the implementation of the CAA, religion was not considered a factor in determining an individual's eligibility for an Indian passport. Individuals desiring naturalization were required to provide evidence of their lawful presence in India and were subject to an 11-year waiting period before becoming eligible for citizenship. The CAA revisions introduce, for the first time in the history of independent India, a religious criterion for citizenship. Muslim individuals who have been subjected to religious persecution in countries like Pakistan (such as the *Abmadiyya* community), Afghanistan (specifically the *Hazara* people), or other

nearby nations (such as the *Ro-bingya* in Myanmar), would still have to endure an 11-year waiting period before they are able to qualify for Indian citizenship. In contrast to Hindus, Parsis, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Christians, individuals belonging to this group are required to possess appropriate documents in order to legitimize their presence in India.

There is no provision in it that revokes anyone's citizenship. The issue with the CAA lies in its discriminatory provision that designates some religious communities as eligible for citizenship. It is assumed that individuals belonging to these six religions in these three nations have escaped persecution. Individuals who do not fit into this classification, either because they arrived in the nation after the specified period or because of their religious affiliation, will still be regarded as unauthorized immigrants.

WHAT IS THE REASON FOR STRONG OPPOSITION?

Since 2019, the primary contention of the principal opposition parties has been that the law is discriminatory since it specifically focuses on Muslims, who constitute around 15% of the nation's population. The government clarifies that due to the fact that Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh are Islamic

countries with a Muslim majority, Muslims cannot be classified as persecuted minority. Nevertheless, they guarantee that proposals from other communities will be evaluated individually. The contentious CAA, enacted in December 2019, has encountered widespread resistance and protests around the nation. The bill has faced criticism from several opposition groups, which have labelled it as "discriminatory". The Congress party has expressed apprehensions over the timing of the rule notice, asserting that it is designed to create divisions in the next Lok Sabha elections in West Bengal and Assam. Chief Minister Vijayan of Kerala has said that the implementation of the CAA would not take place in the state, as he believes it to be a legislation that fosters sectarian discord.

When considered with the projected all-India National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC), the CAA has the capacity to disproportionately affect Muslims living in India by denying them citizenship. Non-Muslims who are excluded from the NCR, will have the chance to recover their citizenship under the CAA. However, Muslims will not have the same possibility. In 2021, a National record of Citizens was conducted in Assam under the supervision of the Supreme Court. This process resulted

in the exclusion of more than 1.9 million individuals from the citizenship record.

On May 28, 2021, the Union government issued an order applying Section 16 of the 1955 Act, which bestowed District Collectors in five States with significant migrant populations the authority to confer citizenship upon specific groups designated in the 2019 amendment. The MHA's 2021-22 Annual Report disclosed that a total of 1,414 citizenship certificates were conferred in 2021, in accordance with the terms of the CAA.

Ultimately, the enactment of the CAA 2019 has ignited fervent discussion and prompted crucial inquiries regarding its impact on India's secular framework and its dedication to inclusiveness. Although the government's decision to offer sanctuary to persecuted minority from surrounding nations is praiseworthy, the act's discriminatory nature has drawn condemnation from many observers. The actual consequences of the CAA, however, will depend on how it is executed. The government must guarantee that the implementation is equitable, transparent, and in accordance with the ideals of equality and justice entrenched in the Indian Constitution. The CAA can only fully achieve its intended goal by upholding the core values of the nation.

PERSPECTIVE VALLEY VIBES

KASHMIR IS NOT PROTESTING, IT'S VOTING

One of the many high points of the ongoing general elections is the voting in Kashmir valley, which started in the fourth phase of the elections, with Srinagar going to the polls last Monday. The constituency saw its highest turnout since 1996—38.49%—according to the latest figures given by the Election Commission of India. In 1996, it was 40.94%. Given that the turnout was 25.86% in 2014 and 14.43% in 2019, a near-40% turnout is a big achievement, and a direct consequence of the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, which started the process of the mainstreaming of Kashmir. In fact, the turnout reflects the changes we have been witnessing in the Valley. There was a time when Srinagar would go dark after 6 pm, as officegoers returned home. People stayed indoors. Fear was palpable in the air. All that has changed. A place like Srinagar's Lal Chowk, which had become synonymous with unrest, is where the Tricolour flutters today and people come for evening walks and shopping. Srinagar has got a nightlife now. Stone pelting has disappeared from downtown Srinagar. Tourists are pouring into the valley. Incomes are skyrocketing. All this is testament of the great work that is happening in the valley.



Voters wait in a queue to cast their votes during phase-IV of voting for the Lok Sabha elections, on 13 May 2024. ANI

There were no election boycott calls by the separatists, no protests, no violence this time. This was a huge contrast to the time when the separatists used to issue a hartal and protests calendar, which brought the whole valley to a standstill, sometimes for months. Fear for their lives wouldn't allow the Kashmiris to step out for voting. It was believed that those who stepped out were party workers who were voting for their respective party candidates. With a near-40 voting percentage, Kashmir has proved that it is the common Kashmiri who has voted this time, which shows that if the right conditions are created, even people in Kashmir are more than eager to participate in India's biggest festival of democracy.

Amidst all this, visuals of voters in the valley thronging the polling stations has unnerved a section of activists and journalists, who have turned the narrative of "oppressed Kashmiris" into an art form. Many such people who make a living out of taking the "broken tales" of "conflict zone" Kashmir to foreign shores at the invitation of rights groups, and indulge in anti-India propaganda in front of foreigners, are trying to explain the large turnout by saying this was a mark of protest. Apparently, people have come out in large numbers because they are protesting the removal of Article 370; that they are voting for National Conference and People's Democratic Party (PDP) because these parties are for the restoration of status quo. When the truth is that, like in the rest of the country, Kashmir's voters are voting for issues such as development, progress, education and employment. By calling these "protest votes" the activists are trying to peddle their fake narrative of Kashmir being another Palestine, to their global audience. Moreover, what a disappointment such a voting trend must have been for Pakistan, which has destroyed its economy and society, while trying to take Kashmir from India.

In fact, this narrative about the vote in Kashmir being a "protest vote" has been picked up, as if on cue, by many analysts and opinion makers known to be opposed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and is being repeated ad nauseum. It is surprising that none of these narrative-spinners realise that Article 370 is history. No political party will ever be able to bring 370 back, whichever side of the spectrum that party may belong to. There is a reason why Rahul Gandhi is avoiding commenting on Article 370. While as an Opposition politician he cannot praise the abrogation, as that would amount to praising Narendra Modi, he cannot even oppose it, for that would be a vote killer for him. Any suggestion of bringing back 370 will be political suicide.

This is not to say that everything is normal in Kashmir. Things can still get derailed if Kashmir is not nurtured. This is to say that a lot has happened in the last five years. Development has come to Kashmir. Industry and investments are coming to a place that, according to locals, had got stuck in a time warp. Generations of Kashmiri politicians did nothing for the people, but continued to thrive under the benevolent protection of New Delhi. Much of the alienation and radicalisation of a section of the valley population has its roots in this. Now that Kashmir has a future, it must not be allowed to return to the sinkhole from where it's emerging. It's for this future that Kashmiris stepped out to vote.

JOYEETA BASU

Youth with 'reel' delusion: Addiction and consequences

OPINION

DR SHALINI YADAV



In recent years, there has been an undeniable surge in the popularity of short videos known as reels across various social media platforms. This phenomenon has captivated the attention of the youth like never before. People of all age groups, including teenagers, adults, and even older individuals, are indulging in this trend of creating digital content through platforms such as reels, YouTube videos, and shorts. Many see it as an easy way to make money and gain fame by becoming influencers and posting engaging content.

While these reels serve as an endless source of entertainment and inspiration for some, concerns have arisen regarding the potential drawbacks associated with excessive consumption. As someone who has long contemplated the implications of youth being engrossed in reels, it is crucial to delve into the negative effects it can have on their physical and mental health, as well as the influence of influencers in shaping their behavior and lifestyle choices.

The excessive engagement with reels can lead to a myriad of negative consequences. One primary concern is its impact on mental health. Psychiatrists and psychologists have observed an increase in stress, depression, and anxiety among the youth due to unrealistic comparisons, feelings of inadequacy, FOMO (fear of missing out), and constant exposure to curated and edited content that often fails to reflect reality and instead creates an illusive dopamine effect.

Furthermore, the sedentary nature of scrolling through reels for hours on end takes a toll on physical health. It contributes to a more sedentary lifestyle, leading to a higher risk of obesity, eye problems, and musculoskeletal disorders. Additionally, addiction to reels can adversely affect sleep patterns, concentration levels, and overall productivity, hindering personal growth and development.

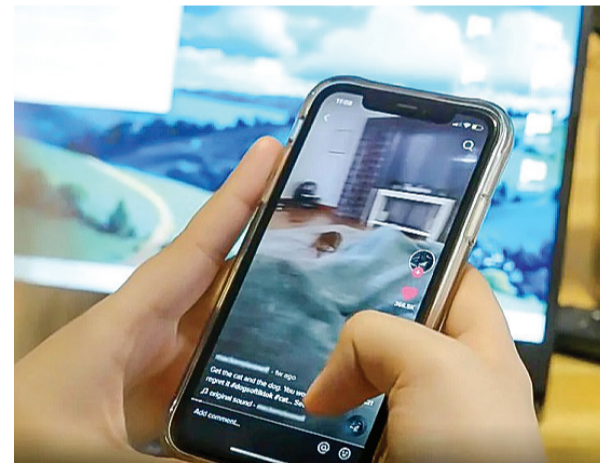
Health coaches and experts have expressed their concerns in this context. Dr. Jane Allen, a renowned clinical psychologist from Saint Louis, highlights how constant exposure to reels can distort the perception of reality and self-image. It creates an unrealistic standard of beauty, success, and happiness, which often triggers feelings of dissatisfaction and anxiety among the youth.

The rise of numerous influencers has overshadowed

the minds and hearts of the youth. Many young individuals idolize these influencers and daydream about instant success, unaware of the effort and hard work that goes behind the scenes. Influencers often project a deceptive and romanticized picture of life, triggering concerns about where this trend is leading the current generation. Some argue that the emphasis on quick and easy money-making goes against the values of hard work and the long path to success, typically achieved through perseverance and persistent efforts.

Another area of concern is the impact of reels on education. This year, there has been a noticeable decrease in the number of students scoring above 90% in the 10th CBSE board exams compared to the previous years. Similarly, in the 12th CBSE board exams, there has also been a decline in the number of students scoring above 95%. The decrease is projected to be around 2% compared to 2020. With many other factors, addiction of watching reels all the time and neglecting studies is also one of the reasons.

There is a worry that individuals, including children and their parents, are diverting their attention away from academics in pursuit of social media success and the monetization of video content. Everyone wants to make easy money through YouTube channels and reels. One escalating influencer interviewed shared a message for teens, emphasizing the importance of focusing on education alongside aspirations of becoming successful influencers. Success requires hard work, perseverance, and patience, and shortcuts are not meant for everyone.



Even many believers of old school dislike the representation of women and girls in these videos with vulgar dance moves and all 'latka-jhatka' and 'thumkas'. Some argue that the portrayal of women flaunting "sexy" attributes and engaging in provocative dance moves may be concerning, as it can potentially stimulus folks in wrong directions and shape their ideals of femininity and role models leading them towards more crime in the society.

I recently witnessed an enchanting matrimonial ceremony that left me utterly fascinated, for amidst the revelry and merriment, my eyes chanced upon a wondrous sight: a mere babe, barely beginning to explore the world, delicately feasting on victuals while engrossed in the captivating reels of Instagram. Earlier nursery rhymes used to be shown while feeding bairms that was still somehow had some educational and moral values.

Despite the critics, the significant demand for this type of content among the general public suggests that not everyone disapproves of this trend. Homemakers like Rohini Bansal and Shruti Tiwari from Jaipur have embraced this digital era and shifted their per-

spective towards life and enjoyment. They prioritize spending time indulging in web series and Instagram reels, revealing a shift in focus from responsibilities to pleasure and leisure activities.

In a rapidly moving world, these lighthearted forms of entertainment act as a means of escaping reality and providing individuals with moments of joy and relief. The word 'entertainment' reminds me lines spoken by veteran actress Vidya Balan in the movie 'The Dirty Picture'..entertainment..entertainment...entertainment..yhi chalta hai.. yhi bikta hai.

The pandemic has also played a role in changing mindsets. The fear of death has prompted individuals to reevaluate their priorities and desire to live in the present, making the most out of every moment. Humorous skits, engaging videos, and relatable reels provide moments of joy and relief, allowing people to temporarily forget about daily struggles and anxieties.

In the digital age, influencers hold great sway over the youth, shaping their lifestyle choices, consumption patterns, and even career decisions. Responsible influencers have the power to inspire positive behavior

change, while others mislead impressionable minds with sponsored content promoting unattainable ideals. Katie Thompson, an influencer advocating mental health awareness, emphasizes the importance of showcasing reality and presenting authentic experiences to create a safe space for followers.

It is still unclear how this craze is impacting Indian society and its future. Whether it is degrading or uplifting our culture, spoiling or building the future of the country, remains a question that needs to be fully understood.

The balance between creativity, self-expression, quality education, and traditional values is crucial for the well-rounded development of youth and the nation as a whole. Instead of completely disregarding the benefits of reels, it is important to find a balance. Setting limits on screen time, curating social media feeds with diverse content, and encouraging responsible use can help mitigate the risks associated with excessive reel consumption. By promoting the authenticity of influencers and creating a positive online environment, society can support the personal growth and well-being of the youth.

The rising popularity of reels has had a significant impact on youth, society and nation at large. While it offers entertainment and inspiration, it also carries potential risks of spoiling young generation that must be addressed. By acknowledging the negative consequences, encouraging responsible use, and fostering a supportive online environment, we can ensure the well-being and development of the youngsters.

CHHINDWARA: A CONGRESS FORTRESS

Since India's independence Chhindwara Lok Sabha constituency in Madhya Pradesh has been a Congress bastion. BJP could breach this fortress only once when Sunder Lal Patwa won in 1997.

KAUSHAL VERMA
NEW DELHI

Chhindwara Lok Sabha constituency, located in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, holds significant political and historical importance. Renowned for its lush landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and vibrant political landscape, Chhindwara has remained a focal point in Indian politics for decades. Chhindwara Lok Sabha constituency in Madhya Pradesh has long been considered a stronghold of the Indian National Congress (INC). Several factors contribute to its status as a Congress bastion:

Historical Legacy: Chhindwara has a historical association with the Congress party, dating back several decades. The constituency has consistently elected Congress candidates to the Lok Sabha, establishing a deep-rooted connection between the party and the electorate.

Leadership of Prominent Congress Figures: Chhindwara was the parliamentary constituency of prominent Congress leaders such as Shri Kamal Nath. Kamal Nath, a veteran politician and former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, represented the seat multiple times, further cementing the Congress party's stronghold in the region.

Strong Grassroots Support: The Congress party has cultivated a strong grassroots network in Chhindwara, engaging with the local community and addressing their concerns effectively. Party workers and leaders have maintained close ties with the electorate, fostering a sense of trust and loyalty among voters.

Social and Demographic Composition: Chhindwara constituency comprises a diverse demographic, including indigenous tribes, scheduled castes, and other backward classes. The Congress party has traditionally appealed to a broad spectrum of voters, with its inclusive policies and focus on social welfare resonating strongly with marginalized communities.

Effective Mobilization and Campaigning: The Congress party has demonstrated a strategic approach to election campaigning in Chhindwara, mobilizing resources effectively and reaching out to voters through various channels. Door-to-door canvassing, public rallies, and outreach programs have been instrumental in consolidating support for the party.

Absence of Strong Opposition: In Chhindwara, the Congress party has often faced relatively weak opposition from rival political parties. The lack of a strong alternative has further bolstered the Congress' electoral prospects in the constituency.



Kamal Nath

Chhindwara Lok Sabha constituency is one of the 29 Lok Sabha constituencies in Madhya Pradesh state in Central India. This constituency came into existence in 1951, and it presently covers the entire Chhindwara district and Pandburna district.

Overall, the combination of historical legacy, effective leadership, grassroots support, and strategic campaigning has contributed to Chhindwara's status as a Congress bastion. However, it's essential to note that political dynamics can evolve over time, and the electoral landscape may witness changes in the future.

Let's understand the constituency: Geographical and Demographic Profile: Chhindwara constituency spans across the Chhindwara district, which is situated in the southern part of Madhya Pradesh. The region is characterized by its diverse geography, encompassing fertile plains, dense forests, and hilly terrains. The district is primarily rural, with agriculture serving as the primary occupation for a majority of its inhabitants. The population comprises a mix of different communities, including indigenous tribes, scheduled castes, and other backward classes.

Political Significance: Chhindwara Lok Sabha constituency holds immense political significance due to its association with prominent political leaders and parties. The constituency has long been considered a bastion of the Indian National Congress (INC), with the party's stronghold extending over several decades. Notably, Chhindwara was the parliamentary constituency of former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Kamal Nath, who represented the seat multiple times.

Economic Landscape: Economically, Chhindwara is known for its agricultural productivity, with crops such as soybean, wheat, and lentils being cultivated in abundance. Additionally, the region is home to industries such as textiles, handloom, and forestry, which contribute significantly to its economy. The district also has reserves of coal and other minerals, providing

employment opportunities in the mining sector.

Social and Cultural Fabric: Chhindwara district boasts a rich cultural heritage, with a blend of traditional and modern influences. The region is home to various indigenous tribes, each with its distinct cultural practices, languages, and customs. Festivals such as Navratri, Diwali, and Holi are celebrated with great fervor, reflecting the vibrant cultural tapestry of the region. Additionally, Chhindwara is known for its handloom industry, producing exquisite fabrics and textiles that are renowned across the country.

Challenges and Developmental Initiatives: Despite its natural beauty and cultural richness, Chhindwara faces several developmental challenges. Infrastructure development, including road connectivity and access to healthcare and education, remains a priority for the region. Additionally, issues such as unemployment, poverty, and environmental degradation pose significant challenges to the district's progress. In recent years, various developmental initiatives have been undertaken to address these challenges. Efforts to improve infrastructure, promote education and healthcare, and enhance agricultural productivity have been initiated by the government and non-governmental organizations. Additionally, schemes aimed at empowering marginalized communities and promoting sustainable development have been implemented to uplift the socio-economic status of the region.

Conclusion: Chhindwara Lok Sabha constituency embodies the essence of India's diversity, with its rich cultural heritage, vibrant political landscape, and socio-economic complexities. As a symbol of resilience and progress, Chhindwara continues to chart its course towards development and prosperity, guided by the

collective aspirations of its people and the visionary leadership of its representatives.

LIST OF MPs

Raichandbhai N. Shah: He was an Indian politician and a member of Parliament in the 1st Lok Sabha in 1952 and represented Chhindwara constituency. He was affiliated with the Indian National Congress. Shah was born in Gagwa district, Jammagar (Saurashtra) on 17 October 1917 to Narshibhai Shah. He obtained his education from Government High School, Betul, Madhya Pradesh.

He participated in various nationwide movements against the British India rule, including in 1941 Civil Disobedience Movement for which he was imprisoned for 6 months, the Quit India Movement in 1942 for which he was imprisoned for 14 months. He served as vice chairperson of the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust for Chhindwara district, president Municipal Committee, Pandhurna in 1947, chair of Bargaon Nyay Panchayat in 1948 and district vice president of Gandhi National Memorial Fund Committee, Chhindwara.

Bhikulal Chandok: He emerged victorious twice from Chhindwara Lok Sabha constituency. He was a member of Indian National Congress and was trusted by the voters not only in 1957 but he also garnered majority votes in 1962 general elections as well.

Gargi Shankar Mishra: He was born on 1 January 1919 in Nagpur. He was an Indian politician and also a member of the 8th Lok Sabha, representing the Seoni (Lok Sabha constituency) of Madhya Pradesh. He was also elected as member of Lok Sabha the many times. He won general elections in 1967, 1971 and 1977.

Alka Nath: Nath was born on 24 November 1951 is a political and social worker and a former member of parliament elected from the



Gargi Shankar Mishra



Sunderlal Patwa

to 5 June 2014 Kamal Nath was the only member to have taken the official oath as a member of the newly elected 16th Lok Sabha, and was made the Pro Tem Speaker. The first day of the Lok Sabha, on which the Pro Tem Speaker normally administers the oath to all other elected members, was interrupted by the death of Union Cabinet Minister of Rural Development Gopinath Munde. The House was adjourned after paying tribute to Munde and observing a two-minute silence. Since no other elected member had taken the oath that day, they were not officially members of parliament.

On 13 December 2018, Kamal Nath was elected as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh after the INC emerged as the single largest party with 114 seats. On 28 April 2022, Kamal Nath stepped down from his position as Leader of Opposition in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly. Kamal Nath is a member of the INC (Indian National Congress) political party and served as general secretary from 2001 to 2004. Nath has close ties with the Nehru-Gandhi family, being young friends and schoolmates with Sanjay Gandhi at the Doon School, an independent boarding school located in Dehradun. Kamal Nath serves as president of the board of governors for The Institute of Management Technology (IMT) a management institution. He is Chairman of "Madhya Pradesh Child Development Council" and Patron to the Bharat Yuvak Samaj (Youth Wing of All India Bharat Seva Samaj). Kamal Nath was born in 1946 in Kanpur to Mahendra Nath and Lila Nath. He has two sister, Anita Puri and Rita Jolly. He married Alka Nath on 27 January 1973 and has two sons, Nakul Nath and Bakul Nath. The family has owned several successful businesses including real estate, aviation, plantations and hospitality. Alka Nath and Nakul Nath have both been elected to India's parliament.



Chhindwara constituency as an Indian National Congress candidate. Alka was born on 24 November 1951 in Amritsar. She married to Kamal Nath, Congress' veteran leader, on 27 January 1973 and has two sons Nakul Nath and Bakul Nath. Nath completed her Bachelor of Arts from Sacred Heart College, Dalhousie (Himachal Pradesh). Alka was elected to the 11th Lok Sabha in 1996.

Sunder Lal Patwa: He was an Indian politician, who served as the 11th Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and a cabinet minister in the Government of India. He was a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party. He was the only politician who defeated Congress strong man Kamal Nath in 1997 from Chhindwara constituency. He was born in the village of Kukreshwar located between Manasa and Rampura in the Neemuch District of Madhya Pradesh. He was awarded Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian award, posthumously in 2017 by the Government of India.

He was Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh twice, from 20 January 1980 to 17 February 1980 as member of Janata Party and from 5 March 1990 to 15 December 1992 as leader of Bharatiya Janta Party. He began his political career with Jana Sangh which merged with Janata Party in 1977. Later members owing allegiance to Jana Sangh's Hindutva ideology broke away from Janata Party in 1980 to form Bharatiya Janata Party.

He was first elected to Lok Sabha via by-poll in Chhindwara in 1997 by defeating Congress strongman Kamal Nath in his home turf. He lost from Chhindwara in 1998 General Election. In 1999, he was elected to the Lok Sabha from Narmadapuram constituency, and was minister in Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government from 1999 to 2001. As a legislator, he was known as strict disciplinarian.

He was associated with Indore Rajya Praja Mandal since 1941, R.S.S. since 1942 and R.S.S. Vistarak, 1947-51. He was imprisoned for seven months for participating in R.S.S. movement in 1948 and was an active worker of Jana Sangh since 1951, Chairman of District Cooperative Bank,

Director, State Cooperative Bank and State Cooperative Marketing Sangh and Treasurer, Jana Sangh from 1967 to 1974. He was detained under M.I.S.A. during Emergency from June 1975 to January 1977. He was awarded the "Vidhan Gaurav" in the All India Conference of Presiding Officers, 1989. He died on 28 December 2016 in Bhopal due to a heart attack at the age of 92 on 28 December 2016.

Kamal Nath: He is an Indian politician and served as the 18th Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh for approximately 15 months and resigned after a political crisis. He was the Leader of the Opposition in the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly from March 2020 to April 2022. As a leader of the Indian National Congress he has served as the Minister of Urban Development. He is one of the longest serving and most senior members of the Lok Sabha, the lower house of India's bicameral Parliament. He was appointed the Pro Tem Speaker of the 16th Lok Sabha.[4] He has been elected nine times from the Chhindwara Lok Sabha constituency of Madhya Pradesh. Nath was elected president of the Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee in May 2018, leading the party in the November-December 2018 assembly election. He assumed the office of Chief Minister on 17 December 2018 and resigned on 20 March 2020 due to lack of majority in government.

Nath was first elected to the 7th Lok Sabha in 1980. He was re-elected to the 8th Lok Sabha in 1984, the 9th Lok Sabha in 1989, and the 10th Lok Sabha in 1991. He was inducted into the Union Council of Ministers as Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Environment and Forests in June 1991. From 1995 to 1996 he served as Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Textiles. Nath was elected to the 12th Lok Sabha in 1998 and the 13th Lok Sabha in 1999. From 2001 to 2004, he was the General Secretary of the Indian National Congress (INC). He was re-elected to the 14th Lok Sabha in the 2004 elections and served as Union Cabinet Minister of Commerce and Industry from 2004 to 2009. On 16 May 2009 he again won the elections from his constituency for the 15th Lok Sabha and re-entered the Cabinet, this time as Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways.[6] In 2011, as a result of a cabinet reshuffle, Nath replaced Jaipal Reddy to take on the role of Minister of Urban Development.

In October 2012 Nath was confirmed to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in addition to his current role as Minister of Urban Development. In late 2012 Nath replaced Pranab Mukherjee to help the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government win a crucial debate on foreign direct investment in India (FDI).[18] Nath also replaced Minister of Rural Development Jairam Ramesh as an ex officio member of the Planning Commission in December 2012 From 4

LIST OF LOK SABHA PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM CHHINDWARA

Year	Member	Party
1952	Raichandbhai Shah	Indian National Congress
1957	Bhikulal Chandak	
1962		
1967		
1971	Gargi Shankar Mishra	Indian National Congress (I)
1977		
1980		Indian National Congress
1984	Kamal Nath	
1989		Bharatiya Janata Party
1991		
1996	Alka Nath	Indian National Congress
1997*	Sunder Lal Patwa	
1998		
1999		
2004	Kamal Nath	
2009		
2014		
2019	Nakul Nath	

*By-Poll



Alka Nath



Bhikulal Chandok

SUPREME COURT: STRANGER WHO PURCHASED PROPERTY KNOWING ABOUT APPEAL PENDENCY CANNOT RESIST RESTITUTION AS BONA FIDE PURCHASER | SECTION 144 CPC

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Bhekchand S/O Dhondiram Mutha, Deceased Through Lrs. Versus Shamabai Dhanraj Gugale, the Deceased Through Lrs. Observed that if after knowing that the decree was likely to be reversed, a stranger auction purchaser, who not party to the proceedings purchases the property in execution of the decree, then he could not claim the protection of being a bona fide purchaser and the principle of restitution would apply in such kind of circumstances.

The court in the case was concerning of the important ruling of the principle

of 'restitution' under Section 144 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, CPC.

The bench comprising of Justice Hrishikesh Roy and Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra while reserving the findings of the High Court stated that if the person who has purchased the suit property from the decree-holder despite having full knowledge of pending appeal proceedings which are initiated against the decree, then the purchaser of the suit property from the decree-holder in the case is not entitled to object restitution which being on the ground that he is a bona fide purchaser.

The Judgement authored by the bench of Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra drew its strength from the

case of Chinnamal and Ors. Vs. Arumugham and Anr., wherein the said court distinguished between the decree-holder who purchased the property in execution of his own decree, which is afterward modified or is reversed and a person who is not a party to the decree i.e., the stranger who purchases the property from the decree-holder.

However, the court in Chinnamal case laid down the test for ascertaining whether the stranger purchaser would be entitled to retain the property by the principle of restitution.

The court stated that the true question in each case is that, it is whether the stranger auction purchaser knew of the pending litigation about the decree under

execution.

The court answered in Chinnamal that if the evidence indicates that he had no such knowledge he would be entitled to retain the property purchased, thus, being a bona fide purchaser and his title to the property remains unaffected by subsequent reversal of the decree. Therefore, the court by all means should protect his purchase. Although, in the evidence, it is shown that he was aware of the pending appeal against the decree when he purchased the property, it would be inappropriate to term him as a bona fide purchaser. Further, the court stated that in such kind of cases the court also cannot assume that he was a bona fide or innocent purchaser

for giving him protection against restitution and no assumption could be made which being contrary to the facts and circumstances of the case and any such assumption would be wrong and uncalled for.

In the present case, the stranger purchasers protested against the applicability of the principle of restitution before the court. The court observed that despite having knowledge of the pending challenge to the decree, he purchased the suit property from the decree holder.

The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case held that the auction purchasers cannot object to the restitution of property to the judgment debtors on the reversal of the decree.

Supreme Court Refused To Quash Cases Against BJP's H Raja For Comments On Periyar, Karunanidhi: 'Politicians Must Be Circumspect About Utterances'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case H. Raja vs. State Rep. By Inspector Of Police in the case observed and has refused to quash the criminal cases against the Bharatiya Janata Party's National Secretary H Raja for his alleged derogatory remarks made against Dravidian movement leader Periyar, former TN Minister M Karunanidhi, DMK party leaders etc.

The bench comprising of Justice Hrishikesh Roy and Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra was hearing an SLP against the order of Madras High Court.

The bench in the case orally commented about the need for politicians to be circumspect about their public com-

ments.

The bench headed by Justice Roy stated that people in politics have to be circumspect about what they utter; somehow we are reducing the level of discourse.

The High Court in the case had refused to quash the criminal cases as stated under Section 153, Wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot, Section 504, Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace and Section 509, Word gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman against Raja.

Further, the trial of these offences is being conducted by the Additional Special Court for Trial of Criminal Cases which relates to MP/MLA's.

The present petitioner had

approached the High Court in the year 2023 for the quashing of FIRs.

The High Court in the case had refused to grant any relief observing that that Raja had a habit of making such irresponsible and damaging comments.

The Court in the case observed that the said court must necessarily take judicial notice of the fact that the petitioner has the proclivity to make irresponsible and damaging comments and that is the reason why he gets into trouble. Thus, the said court is reminded of the sagacious words of Thiruvalluvar and to put it in simple English- Whatever besides you leave unguarded, guard your tongue; otherwise, errors of speech and the consequent misery will ensue.

ED TELLS DELHI HIGH COURT: AAP WILL BE MADE AN ACCUSED IN LIQUOR POLICY SCAM

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate, ED informed the Delhi High Court that the Aam Aadmi Party, AAP is going to be made an accused in the alleged liquor policy scam.

The said development was came while the central probe agency was opposing the petition filed by former Deputy Chief Minister and AAP leader Manish Sisodia in the money laundering case.

The counsel, Special counsel Zohab Hossain appearing for the Enforcement Directorate, ED told the bench of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma that the Aam Aadmi Party, AAP will also be made an accused in the case and a supplementary complaint or chargesheet will be filed.

Earlier, the the agency had disclosed before the Supreme Court that is contemplating to make the political party who being an accused in the case and invoking Section 70 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, PMLA to probe the aspect of

vicarious liability.

The bench headed by Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma in the case observed and has dismissed the challenge to the arrest of party's convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, held that a political party can be brought within the purview of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

The Judge in the case observed that the material put forth by the Enforcement Directorate, ED prima-facie make it clear that Arvind Kejriwal is in charge of and responsible for the conduct of the business of Aam Aadmi Party, and prima-facie would be liable for affairs of the political party so as to attract Section 70(1) of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, PMLA.

Hossain told the court that so far, the 17 arrest have been made in the case.

Further, it has been informed by him that accused no. 31, a spokesperson of AAP, will also be made an accused in the supplementary complaint.

Supreme Court: Services Rendered By Advocates Come Under Contract Of Personal Service

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Bar of Indian Lawyers Through Its President Jasbir Singh Malik vs. D.K. Gandhi Ps National Institute Of Communicable Diseases observed and has held that the Services rendered by an advocate would come under the 'a contract of personal service' as opposed to a 'contract for service'.

The court stated that in the layman terms, 'a contract of personal service' relates to an arrangement where an individual is hired for rendering his or her services.

The court stated that in the case of 'contract for service' the services are availed from an independent service provider. In the former case, the individual is an employee, in the latter case it is always a third party.

The bench comprising of Justice Bela Trivedi and Justice Pankaj Mithal in the case observed and has outlined certain unique attributes that are linked to a relationship between an

Advocate and her Client.

The bench stated that to name a few, these included fiduciary duties owed by an advocate to her client, advocates are not required to make concessions unless it is expressly instructed by her client, advocate being her client's representative shoulders a lot of responsibility, and she is expected to follow the instructions of her client and not upon her own judgment.

TO QUOTE THE JUDGEMENT:

1. The Advocates are generally perceived to be their client's agents and owe fiduciary duties to their clients.

2. The Advocates are fastened with all the traditional duties that agents owe to their principals. For example, the Advocates have to respect the client's autonomy to make decisions at a minimum, as to the objectives of the representation.

3. The Advocates are not entitled to make concessions or give any undertaking to the Court without ex-

press instructions from the Client.

4. It being the solemn duty of an Advocate not to transgress the authority conferred on him by his Client.

5. An advocate is bound to seek appropriate instructions from the Client or his authorized agent before taking any action or making any statement or concession which may, directly or remotely, affect the legal rights of the Client.

6. The Advocate represents the client before the Court and conducts proceedings on behalf of the client. The Advocate is the only link between the court and the client. The responsibility of him is onerous. He is expected to follow the instructions of his client rather than substitute his judgment.

It has also been held by the Division bench while deciding an appeal that raised the issue of whether advocates can be held liable under the Consumer Protection Act for deficiency in services.

The Division bench in the case had heard the matter at length before reserving its judgment on February 26.

Therefore, the instant appeal had emanated from the decision of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, NC-DRC in the year 2007. The Commission had held that if there was any deficiency in service rendered by the Advocates or Lawyers, a complaint under the Consumer Act would be maintainable.

The issue raised before the court was as to whether advocates can be held liable under the Consumer Protection Act 1986 as enacted in 2019 for deficiency of services.

The court in the case observed that the definition of 'Service' and noticed that it clearly excludes Services rendered under a contract of personal service. The said court went on to decide whether the Services provided by the advocates can be classified under 'a contract of personal service.'

The court also referred to the case Dharangadhra Chemical Works Ltd. vs. State of Saurashtra and Others, wherein the court held that the correct method of approach, therefore, would be to consider whether having regard to the nature of the work there was due control and supervision by the employer. Therefore, in order to assess whether the client exercises direct control over the Advocate, the Court cited several provisions of the Civil Procedure Code and one such concerned provision was Order III Rule 4, as per which a pleader cannot act in the Court for any person unless he or she is appointed by such person. Now, the document for appointing a pleader. Therefore, the said document used for the appointment of a pleader is known as 'Vakalatnama'.

The Court in the case noted that by virtue of such 'Vakalatnama,' advocates have certain duties, including the one to their client.

The court noted that 'a considerable amount of direct control is exercised by the Client over the manner in which an Advocate renders his services during the course of his employment.'

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The court concluded that Services of an advocate would come under the contract 'of personal service' thus, the same would stand excluded from the definition of Service as provided under section 2(42) of the Act.

The court stated that it has been alleged in the complaint 'deficiency in service' against Advocates practising Legal Profession would not be maintainable under the CP Act, 2019.

The counsel, Senior Advocate Narendar Hooda and Advocate Jasbir Malik for Bar of Indian Lawyers, Senior Advocate Jaideep Gupta for Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association, Senior advocate Guru Krishnakumar for the Bar Council of India, senior advocate Manoj Swarup, for Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association, Senior advocate Vikas Singh, Senior Advocate Ramakrishnan Viraraghavan for Bengaluru Bar Association appeared for the Appellant.

Supreme Court: The Advocates Not Liable Under Consumer Protection Act For Deficiency Of Services.

AI VOICE CLONING - Unleashed



KHUSHBU JAIN



NINAD BARGE

In an age where technology seems to blur the lines between reality and fiction, voice cloning emerges as a potent example of our evolving digital landscape. Voice cloning, the process of replicating a person's voice using advanced algorithms, has garnered both fascination and concern worldwide.

There are very diverse applications of AI voice cloning such as preserving legacy by keeping the voices of your loved ones alive for the generations to come, it feels like they never left. Also, considering medical implications, it provides voice for those who are losing it due to illness or disability, Apple's iOS 17 introduced voice cloning to aid such people. Its creativity has no limit, it provides people with an immersive experience through cloning whichever voice they want to narrate them a bedtime story or in audio games, custom virtual assistants

provide an immersive digital interaction. Even, song producers clone the voice of actors or singers in order to use them, YouTube's Dream Track is a feature which creates song clips featuring AI vocals with the permission from the pop stars.

It is very fascinating to use such kind of technological magic to innovate using your creativity. But, the freely accessible Software's like these, eventually lead to great modern day Cyber-Heists!

All it Takes is- Few Dangerous Seconds. THAT'S IT! (a) Imagine your child crying on the phone and asking for help, any parent would panic and do as the daughter say, but in actual it is not the daughter on the phone, instead it's the cloned voice which is being heard by the parent, similar case happened with Sarita Khanna, the middle-aged wife of a businessman from MP's Khargone, she got a call

from an unknown number saying her daughter is kidnapped and demanded for Rs. 3 lakhs, and the daughter was heard crying on the phone, she was tricked in sending the money. Whereas, her daughter was safe and sound at her hostel.

(b) In another example, a Lucknow-based government official received a call from an unknown number claiming that his son, who is studying in Bengaluru, had been caught with narcotics and was in police custody, demanding Rs.1 lakh to release him; the boy's voice could be heard saying "papa mujhe bacha lo". After hearing his son's voice, he sent the money without thinking twice.

(c) Another example is retired Coal India officer PS Radhakrishnan, who was duped into paying 40,000 rupees in response to a call from his old buddy of 40 years, Venu Kumar, who had contacted him after nearly a year of no communication to beg his assistance with an urgent financial transaction. Radhakrishnan stated the voice on the phone sounded exactly like him, and they talked for a long time, leading him to assume it was Venu Kumar himself; in reality, it was another AI-cloned voice working its intellect.

(d) An unusual matter of fraud used an AI generated cloned audio to defraud a United Kingdom based energy firm of \$243,000. According to the report from the Wall Street Journal, in March 2019, the fraudsters utilized a voice-cloning AI software to impersonate the voice of the chief executive of the firm's Germany-based parent company in order to effectuate an illegal fund transfer. The Cybercriminals called the U.K. firm's CEO posing as the CEO of the parent company. Then the attackers demanded for an urgent wire transfer to be made to a Hungary-based supplier and the U.K. firm's CEO was guaranteed a reimbursement. After the money was transferred, it was forwarded to an account in Mexico and then other locations, making it difficult to identify the fraudsters.

How to protect yourself? If bad actors are using voice cloning to mimic voices and commit crimes, it is important for us to stay vigilant. There are some common signs and red flags that you can look out for:

1. If you are answering a call from an unknown number, let the caller speak first, if you say as much as "Hello? Who is this?" They could use that audio sample

to impersonate you.

2. If you receive a call or message from someone you know, but they make unusual or out-of-character requests, it could be a sign of voice cloning. For example, if a friend or family member suddenly asks for sensitive information or money, proceed with caution and verify their identity through other means.

3. Voice cloning technology may not perfectly replicate the original voice, leading to subtle inconsistencies. Pay attention to any noticeable changes in tone, pitch, or pronunciation that are out of character for the person you're communicating with.

4. Cloned voices may have lower audio quality or exhibit artifacts. If the voice on the other end of the call sounds distorted, robotic, or unnatural, it could be a sign of voice cloning.

5. If the background noise during a call seems inconsistent with the expected environment of the caller, it could indicate a cloned voice. For example, if you hear noises that don't match the typical sounds of a workplace or home, it may be a cause for suspicion.

6. Voice cloning scammers may try to create a sense of urgency or pressure to manipulate you into providing

sensitive information or taking immediate action. Be cautious if the caller insists on quick decisions, especially if it involves financial matters.

7. Voice cloning scammers often use caller ID spoofing techniques to make it appear as if the call is coming from a trusted source or a legitimate organization. If you receive a call from a known number but the voice or the content of the conversation seems suspicious, consider contacting the person or organization directly using a verified contact method to confirm the call's legitimacy.

8. Voice cloning attempts may involve the use of pre-recorded responses or scripts. If the person on the other end of the call consistently provides robotic or repetitive responses that do not directly address your questions or concerns, it could be an indication of a cloned voice.

If someone becomes a victim of such a scam, they may find recourse under the following sections among others:

UNDER THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACT, 2000:

● Section 66C: Identity theft and can be applicable if the fraud involves the deceptive use of someone's voice identity.

● Section 66D: Cheating by personation using a computer resource and can be relevant if the fraudster impersonates another person using technology.

ADDITIONALLY, RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE INDIAN PENAL CODE, 1860 MAY APPLY:

● Section 419: If the fraudster impersonates someone else to deceive the victim.

● Section 420: If the scam involves deceiving someone to transfer money or property.

WAY FORWARD

Law enforcement agencies, technology companies, telcos and research institutions need to collaborate to develop advanced voice authentication and anti-spoofing techniques. These techniques should aim to identify synthesized or cloned voices and differentiate them from genuine human voices.

As for integrating these technologies into phones or communication platforms, some progress has been made in implementing call authentication frameworks. For example, the STIR/SHAKEN framework has been introduced in some countries to verify the authenticity of caller IDs and

detect spoofed calls. While these frameworks primarily focus on verifying caller ID information, they can indirectly help in identifying potential voice cloning attempts. India too is working towards adopting a multi-pronged approach by introducing the Calling Name Presentation (CNAP) service which will notify call receivers about the identity proof linked with a SIM card being used by the caller.

Another such approach is the vision of establishing the National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) which will serve as a centralized organization responsible for addressing digital frauds. NCSA, shall also invest into developing such voice analysis algorithms and machine learning models that can analyze voice patterns, acoustic characteristics and linguistic markers to detect anomalies that may indicate AI voice cloning. These technologies can be integrated into communication platforms or phone apps to provide real-time detection and alerts for suspicious calls.

Khushbu Jain is a practicing advocate in the Supreme Court and founding partner of the law firm, Ark Legal. She can be contacted on X: @advocatekhushbu and Ninad Barge intern at Ark Legal

ISLAMABAD HIGH COURT APPROVES IMRAN KHAN'S BAIL APPLICATION

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday approved former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's bail application in the Pound 190 million corruption case, Pakistan-based Dawn reported.

A two-member bench, comprising IHC Chief Justice Amer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jhangiri, had reserved the verdict on Tuesday after the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) prosecution team and Imran Khan's lawyer, Sardar Latif Khan Khosa, concluded their arguments.

The court set Imran Khan's bail at Pakistani Rupees (PKR) 1 million. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan will not be released from prison



Imran Khan

as he is still serving out his sentences in the cypher case and the iddat case. His sentences in two separate Toshakhana cases were suspended by the IHC.

In his concluding arguments in the court, NAB Special Prosecutor Amjad Pervaiz said that the trial of Imran Khan and his spouse was about to conclude, according to Dawn report.

Pervaiz said that out of 59 prosecution witnesses, 30 have testified so far, and the prosecution would reduce the number of remaining witnesses by 10 to 15 and produce the rest for recording statements.

Amjad Pervaiz cited a Supreme Court judgement where bail petitions were rejected in such situations. In his arguments, Imran

Khan's lawyer, Khosa, termed the case baseless and added that there was no allegation of money laundering by the accused.

UK's National Crime Agency seized the money for a suspicious transaction, which was returned to Pakistan under an out-of-court settlement.

Khosa stated that the money could have been retrieved through UK courts. However, it would have taken time to complete the process.

Khosa's lawyer said that the government only facilitated the expeditious return of the seized amount.

Imran and his wife, Bushra Bibi, were indicted in the case by a Rawalpindi accountability court in February.

In December, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) filed a corruption reference against Imran and seven others, including his

wife, in connection with Al-Qadir University.

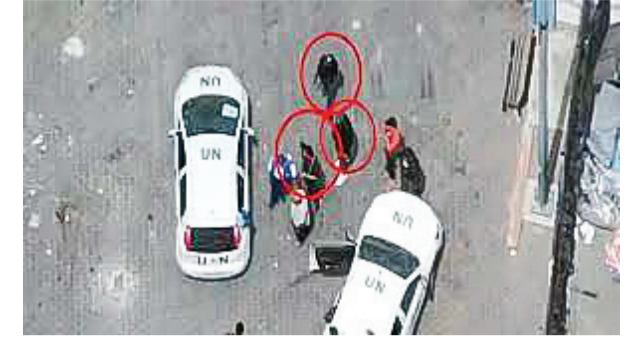
The case alleges that Imran Khan and his wife obtained billions of rupees and land worth hundreds of kanals from Bahria Town Ltd for legalising PKR 50 billion that was identified and returned to Pakistan by the UK during the previous PTI government, according to Dawn report.

The case filed by NAB alleged that Imran Khan, who is currently incarcerated in Adiala Jail, played a "pivotal role in the illicit transfer of funds meant for the state of Pakistan into an account designated for the payment of land by Bahria Town, Karachi."

It also claimed that despite being given multiple opportunities to provide information, the accused deliberately, with mala fide intention, did not give information on one pretext or another.

Palestinian gunmen spotted in UNRWA Rafah facility

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV



The Israeli military released photos and footage of Palestinian gunmen inside a UNRWA logistics facility in eastern Rafah alongside UN vehicles.

Footage released by the Israel Defence Forces showed several terrorists milling around UN vehicles arriving at the compound. The IDF said at one point, it detected one of the gunmen firing at civilians.

The warehouse compound in question is a central point for distributing humanitarian aid in the Rafah area.

"Gunmen, likely Hamas terrorists, hanging out at UNRWA warehouse in eastern Rafah a few days ago and identified by an IDF drone," spokesperson Lt. Col. (ret.) Peter Lerner wrote on X, formerly called Twitter.

"The UN needs to answer some serious questions. Imagine what would've happened if we were to target them? The hypocrisy is astounding."

Following the incident, representatives of the Co-ordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) conveyed the findings to senior officials in the international community and called on the UN to urgently investigate the incident. COGAT is a unit within the Defense Ministry responsible for overseeing humanitarian aid deliveries.

Israeli forces took control of the Palestinian side of Gaza's border with Egypt, including the Rafah border crossing, on May 7 in a move making it harder for Hamas to hijack humanitarian aid trucks arriving from Egypt.

In a related development, an Israeli airstrike killed 15 terrorists inside a Hamas war room located in a UNRWA school compound in the central Gaza area of Nuseirat. Among the 15 killed were members of Hamas's elite Nukhba force, which played a leading role in the October 7 attacks on Israeli communities.

At least 1,200 people were killed and 240 Israelis and foreigners were taken hostage in Hamas's attacks on Israeli communities near the Gaza border on October 7. Around 30 of the remaining 132 hostages are believed dead.

Israel kills 15 terrorists in Hamas command centre

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV



Israeli aircraft killed 15 terrorists in a strike on a Hamas command center located inside a UNRWA school on Saturday, the Israel Defense Forces said.

The war room was embedded in a UN Relief and Works Agency school in the central Gaza area of Nuseirat. According to the IDF, at least 10 of the terror operatives killed were members of Hamas with the rest being members of other terror groups. The Hamas terrorists included members of the elite Nukhba force, which played a leading role in the October 7 attacks on Israeli communities.

The IDF's announcement included a map of the school compound along with the location of the Hamas war room.

"The Hamas war room had been used by the terrorist organisation to plan multiple attacks against IDF troops in central Gaza in recent weeks. The Hamas terrorist organisation systematically exploits the civilian popula-

tion and institutions as human shields for their terrorist activities against the State of Israel," the military said.

UNRWA, which supports Palestinian refugees, has been under fire for months, with Israeli officials demanding the agency be stripped of its authority in Gaza and defunded amid revelations that members of the agency's staff participated in Hamas's October 7 attacks. The Israeli government is bypassing UNRWA in distributing humanitarian aid.

Israeli intelligence incriminating 12 staffers of their participation, including using UNRWA vehicles and facilities during the massacres was leaked to The New York Times. Afterward, The Wall

Street Journal reported that one in 10 UNRWA employees is either an active member of or has ties to Hamas or Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Israel's largest bank froze UNRWA's account over suspicious financial transfers that the agency failed to adequately explain.

In February, Israeli forces discovered a Hamas complex located directly under the UNRWA's Gaza City headquarters and connected directly to the agency's electricity system. The facility included numerous computer servers belonging to the terror group. Reports released by IMPACT-SE and UN Watch documented UNRWA employees expressing support for the attacks on social media.

Forty-five Chinese aircraft detected near Taiwan

AGENCIES
TAIPEI



The Ministry of National Defence in Taiwan reported a surge in activity by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China around the island nation, heightening tensions in the region.

According to official statements released on Wednesday, a total of 45 PLA aircraft and 6 vessels from China's People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) were detected operating near Taiwan as of 6 am local time.

Of particular concern was the intrusion into Taiwan's Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ) by 26 aircraft, which crossed the median

line, venturing into the northern and southwestern sectors of Taiwan's airspace.

In response to the increased activity, Taiwan's Republic of China Armed Forces (ROCArmedForces) closely monitored the situation and implemented necessary measures to safeguard national security.

"45 PLA aircraft and 6

PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 26 of the aircraft crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern and southwestern ADIZ. #ROCArmedForces have monitored the situation and responded accordingly," said Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence on Wednesday.

Japan, US to co-develop hi-tech weapons interceptor

AGENCIES
TOKYO



Japan and the United States on Wednesday signed an arrangement to jointly develop a new type of missile defense system as the allies seek to defend against the growing threat of hypersonic weapons, which are possessed by China and Russia and being tested by North Korea.

The project was initially agreed between Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and U.S. President Joe Biden at their summit in Washington last August.

The Glide Sphere Interceptor is planned for deployment by the mid-2030s.

Wednesday's agreement determines the allocation of responsibility and decision-making process, a first

major step in the project, Japanese defense ministry officials said. They hope to decide on Japanese contractors and start the development process by March 2025.

China cries foul after new US tariffs; vows to defend its interests

AGENCIES
BEIJING



"Firmly opposing" the new US tariffs, China warned that the trade barriers would affect the wider relationship between the two economic superpowers and Beijing will "resolutely work" to defend its interests, CNN reported.

China's Commerce Ministry also said that the move is against US President Joe Biden's earlier stand of not seeking to 'contain' or 'decouple' with Beijing.

This comes hours after Biden announced that tariffs on USD 18 billion worth of imports of Chinese electric vehicles and an array of other products would soar over the next two years.

The White House said the measures were designed to protect American workers and businesses in the face of China's unfair trade practices, including "flooding global markets with artificially low-priced exports."

China "firmly opposes" the new tariffs, the country's Commerce Ministry said in a statement. "The increase in...tariffs by the United States contradicts President Joe Biden's commitment to 'not seek to suppress and contain China's development' and 'not to seek to decouple and break links with China,'" it said. "This action will seriously impact the atmosphere of bilateral cooperation."

The Chinese Ministry further said Beijing would take "resolute measures" to defend its rights and interests and urged the Biden administration to "correct its wrongdoing."

Following this move, EVs imported from

China will see their tariffs more than quadrupled from 27.5 per cent to 100 per cent.

According to CNN, this policy lever is meant to challenge Beijing's practice of encouraging aggressively low pricing by domestic EV manufacturers while levying a 40 per cent tariff on US car imports.

In addition to EVs, increased tariffs will apply to imports of Chinese steel and aluminium, legacy semiconductors, battery components, critical minerals, solar cells, cranes, and medical products.

Tariffs on solar cells and semiconductors will double to 50 per cent, while the remainder of the targeted imports will attract tariffs of 25 per cent.

"China opposes the unilateral imposition of tariffs which violate (World Trade Organization) rules, and will take all necessary actions to protect its legitimate rights," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told reporters shortly before the announcement.

Sri Lanka in talks with India to set up small arms manufacturing unit

AGENCIES
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka on Wednesday said it is holding talks with India to set up a small arms manufacturing unit under the wider ambit of defence cooperation between the two countries.

"We are in discussions with India to set up a small arms manufacturing unit. We are in touch with our Indian counterparts, there is so much we can take and learn from India," State Minister of Defence Premitha Bandara Tennakoon said responding to a query from the media.

Discussions are ongoing (for) a joint venture in the military industry, Tennakoon said.

His statement comes a little more than a month after India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Santosh Jha told a defence seminar here that New Delhi was willing to offer modern defence equipment to friendly partner countries such as Sri Lanka.

Like in other areas, India and Sri Lanka are cooperating closely on security and defence matters. The Indian defence industry today rolls out state-of-the-art systems, advanced technologies and world class equipment, Jha had said on April 10.

Wong sworn in as Singapore's new Prime Minister

AGENCIES
SINGAPORE



Singapore's fourth generation of leaders will "lead in our own way" with a leadership style that is different from previous generations, Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said on Wednesday as he took oath of office in a planned political transition in the city-state.

The 51-year-old economist-turned-politician succeeded Lee Hsien Loong, 72, who relinquished his position after two decades; both belonging to the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) that has been driving Singapore's economic progress for more than five

decades.

Wong, who was the deputy prime minister, will be leading the fourth generation PAP politicians' government as the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister.

President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, 67, administered the oath to Wong, described by the local media as a low-key leadership transition.

Wong cited continuity, stability and the need to avoid disruptions as reasons for not making major changes at the minister (cabinet) level. "With all other ministers holding on to their portfolios across the leadership transition from Lee Hsien Loong's government to Wong's, it also testifies to the consistency in Wong's decision-making," a Channel News Asia report said.

SHABANA AZMI AWARDED 'FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF LONDON'



TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Veteran actor Shabana Azmi has been honoured with the 'Freedom of the City of London' award for her outstanding contribution to Indian cinema and as a campaigner for women's rights. The actress was in London to celebrate her 50 years in cinema at the annual UK Asian Film Festival (UKAFF). During this, she received the honour at this function. For the unversed, this award is given for outstanding contributions in 'I am grateful for this recognition,' says Shabana.

After receiving the honour in London, she said, 'I feel extremely honoured to receive the Freedom of the City of London award. It is

a testament to the power of cinema and activism that we are able to cross boundaries and make a meaningful impact on society.' The veteran actor also added that she's grateful for this recognition and is committed to always using my voice and platform to advocate for positive change.

Shabana Azmi's post on Instagram The veteran actor also took to her Instagram profile to post a photo while receiving the honour. "Overwhelmed to receive the oldest award in London the Freedom To City award bestowed by the London Corporation at Guild hall on 10th May 2024. Previous recipients are #Nelson Mandela, #Stephen Hawkin and #Florence Nightingale," read her caption.

JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ TO ATTEND CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 2024

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Actor Jacqueline Fernandez is all set to mark her presence at the ongoing Cannes Film Festival.

Excited to walk the red carpet, Jacqueline said, "I am super excited to go to the Cannes Film Festival once again this year, this time in association with BMW and I cannot wait for it. It feels great to represent the Southeast Asian diaspora at a global level, and it's an honour to walk the prestigious red carpet where many legends have already walked."

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, the Bharat Pavilion was inaugurated at the festival.

Representing the country, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcast-

ing, Sanjay Jaju along with Jawed Ashraf, Ambassador of India to France, attended the event.

Hosted each year at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, Government of India, Bharat's participation is spearheaded by the National Film Development Corporation as the nodal agency and FICCI as the industry partner.

The pavilion marks India's continued commitment to showcasing its rich cinematic heritage and fostering international collaborations with the global film fraternity. Many states/UTs like Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra, among others, are representing India at the Cannes Film Market this year.

PRIME VIDEO RENEWS 'THE BOYS' FOR SEASON FIVE



TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Streaming service Prime Video on Friday renewed the critically-acclaimed series "The Boys" for a fifth season.

The season five order for the satirical superhero comes weeks ahead of the fourth season's debut on Prime Video, a press release said.

Created by Erik Kripke, "The Boys" is based on The New York Times best-selling comic by Garth Ennis and Darick Robertson, and follows the eponymous team of vigilantes as they combat superpowered individuals who abuse their abilities.

The show's fourth season will start streaming on Prime Video with three episodes on June 13, followed by the release of a new episode each week, ending with the epic season finale on July 18.

"In Season Four, the world is on the brink. Victoria Neuman is closer than ever to the Oval Office and under the muscly thumb of Homelander, who is consolidating his power. Butcher, with only months to live, has lost Becca's son and his job as The Boys' leader. The rest of the team are fed up with his lies. With the stakes higher than ever, they have to find a way to work together and save the world before it's too late," the official logline read.

"The Boys" features an ensemble cast of Karl Urban, Jack Quaid, Antony Starr, Erin Moriarty, Jessie T Usher, Laz Alonso, Chace Crawford, Tomer Capone, Karen Fukuhara, Colby Minifie, Claudia Doumit, and Cameron Crovetti. Season Four also will welcome Susan Heyward, Valorie Curry, and Jeffrey Dean Morgan to the cast.

PICTURE PERFECT

Bollywood actors Shekhar Suman and Adhyayan Suman pose for a photo during the success party of their Netflix series 'Heeramandi', in Mumbai. (ANI)



MAMI FILM FESTIVAL TO TAKE PLACE IN OCTOBER, PRIYANKA EXPRESSES EXCITEMENT

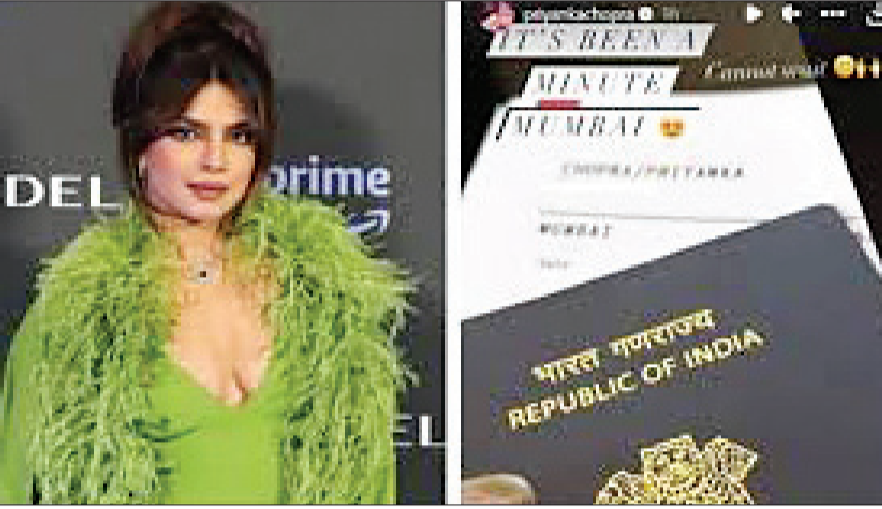
TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The dates for the upcoming edition of MAMI Mumbai Film Festival have been announced.

The film gala is all set to take place from October 19 to October 24.

Mumbai Academy of Moving Image, which organises the festival annually, has invited filmmakers to submit their films for the latest edition. The early bird deadline for film submissions is May 31, 2024, as per a statement.

Talking about the festival and its commitment to South Asian cinema, talent, and audience, Priyanka Chopra, Chairperson, MAMI, said, "With our new vision at MAMI, launched in 2023, we've successfully



established an ecosystem that highlights South Asian and South Asian diaspora films and filmmakers. As the landscape of cinema and storytelling undergoes significant shifts, we firmly believe that our festival plays a crucial role in championing diverse

narratives and facilitating connections between filmmakers and their audiences. I'm excited to announce the call for entries for 2024 and encourage filmmakers to submit their films to MAMI—a platform where we celebrate innovative storytelling and every film that

deserves global attention."

On what cinophiles can expect from the upcoming edition, Deepti DCunha, Artistic Director, MAMI, said, "We are committed to showcasing the finest works by South Asian, South Asian Diaspora, and International filmmakers.

Ram Pothineni's 'Double ISMART' teaser goes viral

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Ram Pothineni and director Puri Jagannadh are back with the sequel for their massive blockbuster iSmart Shankar. As the title suggests, the movie Double ISMART is going to be double the madness to the prequel. Extending birthday wishes to the dynamic star Ram, the makers dropped the diMAAKIKIRIKIRI teaser of Double ISMART.

The teaser opens with a voiceover that uses all the filthy words to describe the character of the protagonist who is now in a lab in Hyderabad with some scientists around him. Ram is back as Ustaad iSmart Shankar alias Double ISMART who flirts with Kiraak girls and taps feet for Khatarnaak beat. Kavya Thapar was introduced as the leading lady. Sanjay Dutt makes a power-



ful entry as Big Bull. The last sequence is exceptional. Like for iSmart Shankar, Double ISMART also has a heavy and action-packed climax sequence with a spiritual touch. The enormous Shiva Linga and the massive crowd where the climax fight takes place offer goosebumps.

The teaser surely ignited the iSmart madness with a double impact. The view-

ers witness a double dose of action, entertainment, and mass elation in the clip. Puri Jagannadh yet again presented his hero in the best stylish, mass, and action-packed avatar. The one-liners in typical Hyderabad slang keep you entertained throughout. His acting is very stylish and the content lives up to the title with double action, double energy, and double fun. Ram

reprised Double ISMART with double the flair. His energetic acting and on-screen charisma are exceptional.

Sanjay Dutt plays a substantial role as the antagonist who looks deadly, despite wearing stylish attires. Kavya Thapar looked glamorous. There is a sense of déjà vu to see Ali in a funny role. Puri and Ali indeed are a hilarious combination.

NAYANTHARA PAIRED WITH MAMMOOTY FOR GVM FILM?

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The latest news is that Jawaan actor Nayanthara will be seen with Malayalam superstar Mammooty in a Gautham Vasudev Menon film soon. This will be Tamil director Gautham Vasudev Menon's first Malayalam film and given that he was a Malayali, this has been exciting news for fans. Nayanthara and Mammooty have worked in a few films earlier and if she says yes to this film, she will be working with the Malayalam superstar after eight long years.

Tamil director Gautham Vasudev Menon (GVM) had



shared the screen with Mammooty in the film Bazooka. He had also expressed his wish to direct a Malayalam film and said in an interview, "I am also looking to see if I

can direct a film next year in Malayalam; I am in discussion with a couple of actors. I really want to work with Mammooty sir and also with Fahadh Faasil."

There are unconfirmed reports that the project was being produced by the megastar himself, under his home banner Mammooty Kampany.



I cannot do a film I don't believe in, however safe it might be.



-SHAHID KAPOOR
(Indian actor)

'PANCHAYAT 3' TRAILER: JITENDRA, NEENA-STARRED TO TAKE YOU ON A ROLLER COASTER RIDE



TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Keeping the fans on their toes, the much-anticipated 'Panchayat 3' has been creating buzz ever since its announcement. Building more excitement among the fans, makers on Wednesday unveiled the thrilling official trailer.

Taking to Instagram, streaming platform Prime Video treated fans with the official trailer.

Along with the video, they captioned the post, which read, "We know you couldn't wait, so here's Panchayat's newest update. watch the trailer & get ready for #PanchayatOnPrime, May 28."

The trailer sees its much-loved returning star cast Jitendra Kumar, Neena Gupta, Raghavir Yadav, Faisal Malik, Chandan Roy, and Sanvika get embroiled in matters of the heart and politics, and much more.

The clip begins with a new 'sachiv' (secretary) introducing himself to the village head, played by Raghavir Yadav. The trailer reveals Jitendra Kumar as the 'sachiv' transfer has been postponed,

and he will continue to serve the people of Phulera.

Kumar's character tries to stay away from the local politics of Phulera village. However, the villagers prepare for the election of the 'pradhan'.

'Panchayat 3' chronicles the life of Abhishek, an urban engineering graduate, who joins as a Panchayat secretary in a remote village Phulera of Uttar Pradesh due to a lack of better job options.

Created by The Viral Fever, 'Panchayat S3' is directed by Deepak Kumar Mishra and written by Chandan Kumar. It will premiere in Hindi, with dubs in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada.

Recently, the makers of 'Panchayat 3' announced the release date of the TV series.

The light-hearted entertainer is all set to return with the new season on May 28.

Earlier, on expanding the 'Panchayat' franchise, Manish Menghani, director - content licensing, at Prime Video India, said, "Panchayat is one of the most loved Indian Amazon Originals, resonating not only with audiences in India but also across the globe.

'WAR IS COMING': LOOK AT INTRIGUING NEW TRAILER OF 'HOUSE OF THE DRAGON SEASON 2'



TDG NETWORK
WASHINGTON

Makers of the 'House of the Dragon' season 2 treated fans with an intriguing new trailer.

Taking to X, HBO released the official trailer on Tuesday and captioned the post, which read, "Raise your banners. The official trailer is here. June 16 on @StreamOnMax. #HOTDS2."

The first season 'House Of The Dragon' ended on a high note with Lucerys's death, which planted the seeds of conflict between the Red and Green councils of House Targaryens. The second season will resume with the aftermath of the incident and mark the beginning of the civil war, as per The Hollywood Reporter.

This second season of 'House of the Dragon' is based on George RR Martin's novel 'Fire & Blood'.

The season 2 trailer reveals that war has been officially declared! Queen Mother Alicent wants her son Aegon to rule the throne, but the late King Viserys designated Rhaenyra the true heir. Although Alicent has the power of the realm and the support of her house, the Hightower, House Velaryon, will support Rhaenyra.

Prince Daemon and the usurper King Aegon are in the mood for war. It appears that the Queens have yet to unleash their wrath and are attempting to escape the inevitable war. In the video, Rhaenyra says, "War is coming, and neither of us can win."

BAJAJ PULSAR NS400 FIRST RIDE REVIEW

SYED SHIRAZ SHAH

This motorcycle is actually called the NS400Z, but I've deliberately removed the "Z" because its presence wasn't making any sense. The bike should've been called just "NS400" and that's how it's going to be in this article.

I need to also set the record straight here with respect to what everyone has reported about its design and technical bits. Almost every analyst, reviewer, YouTuber, enthusiast, their uncles, and their nephews and nieces, who believe that this Pulsar should've looked different than the NS200, are absolutely wrong. Bajaj already has a differently designed Pulsar 400. It's called the Dominar. An NS has to look like an NS, so full marks to the designers for not diluting its identity.

However, there are more reasons for the similarity in appearance. The NS200 is the company's most popular "Pulsar" not only in India, but globally too. Therefore, it was sheer common sense for Bajaj to make an NS400 and not, say, an N400. It's another matter altogether that people would've still said the same thing (that it looks like the N250), and they'd still be



Photography: Paarijaat Sharma

wrong. Why? Because that's not how design works.

A motorcycle has to conform to the design language of the particular series it belongs to, irrespective of its cubic capacity. It's mostly a case of "form following function" and not because it's convenient. So, a Yamaha YZF has to be designed in a certain manner to ensure that it stays true to its ethos, and the same goes for the BMW GS series. That's also how manufacturers ensure their vehicles look like they belong to the same family. In fact, you'll find that all mainstream motorcycle manufacturers do that, except Hero MotoCorp, whose

stable looks like an orphanage—that's great if you're an NGO, but not if you're a motorcycle manufacturer. Except the Splendors, none of Hero's products are immediately distinguishable as Heros (no pun intended)...

Therefore, while the NS400's design is similar enough to keep the lineage intact, there are subtle elements that tell those with a keen eye that, yes, this is indeed the biggest sibling in the NS family. The whole headlamp housing is different; the tank extensions had to be redesigned to accommodate the radiator; the 200 has always had clip-ons, whereas the 400 gets a single piece handlebar, that too hydroformed, and not a pressed unit like on the Dominar; the USD fork is thicker (as compared to the 200's), and so is the swingarm. Most importantly, the perimeter frame on the NS400 has been lifted from the Dominar and not from the NS200. Why? Because, on the Dominar, it was reinforced (further strengthened) to take the 373 cc engine, and that's exactly



Photography: Paarijaat Sharma

the setup the NS400 also gets. Of course, the headstock is different because the NS400 is a street fighter (NS stands for "Naked Sports"), and not a sport tourer like the Dominar 400. What's even more interesting is that the NS400's steering geometry is sharper than even the NS200's! That, coupled to the shorter swingarm, has resulted in a wheelbase that's shorter than not only the Dominar's but the NS200's as well. It's needed too, because, a naked sport



Photography: Paarijaat Sharma



Photography: Paarijaat Sharma

should be quick on its feet, and I'm happy to report that the NS400 is indeed an agile motorcycle. It's not a Duke though. It can't be, at this price. It doesn't have to be, either.

See, the good chaps at Bajaj ensure that, in addition to riding in the city, highways, ghats, etc., we get to ride their motorcycles at their Chakan track as well so that we can test the bikes' limits without killing ourselves. The idea is to provide a safe environment to us for testing; it

doesn't automatically imply that the bike under test is a track-focused specimen. I must also add here that even the most hardcore track-oriented motorcycles seldom see trackdays in India. The real test of any motorcycle in India is out there on the road, in the real world, and that's where the NS400 truly shines!

The suspension, which becomes overwhelmed by hard cornering on the track, gets in its own element in the city. It enjoys hammering the bad

roads into submission and you'd rarely find any road irregularities big enough to unsettle this bike on the road or off it.

In other words, it's quick to turn for a naked 400, but it's not quite confident at high speed cornering. That's a small price to pay for the fantastic ride quality, which will matter the most to its potential owners. Also, despite the short wheelbase and sharp steering geometry, it stayed planted as a rock at a speedo indicated 166 km/h, where the GPS showed 154 km/h—which also happens to be the top speed claimed by Bajaj. The claimed 0-100 km/h time is 6.9 s and in my solitary attempt, I could achieve a time of 7.4 s. I am 500 per cent sure that I can match, or even better, 6.9 s with a few more runs...

The NS400 will also be good for touring. Despite getting an additional tooth in the rear sprocket, this bike sits at just around 5,200 rpm in 6th at a speedo-indicated 100 km/h, and there are almost zero vibrations at this point. It definitely is a nice city bike too with good maneuverability, tractability, ride modes (which also vary ABS intensity), traction control, and adjustable levers. I just wish the engine didn't feel this rough at city speeds. NO, it's not vibey. It just FEELS rough. But it won't be a decision breaker for anyone, especially when you consider that this is the most powerful motorcycle (40 PS) you can buy right now for under two lakh rupees (ex-showroom). The competitors mostly sell their 20 PS motorcycles at this price..



Photography: Paarijaat Sharma



EMPOWERING YOUR EV JOURNEY: STRATEGIES FOR COST-EFFECTIVE LONG-DISTANCE TRAVEL



RAGHAV ARORA

The advent of the electric vehicle revolution began more than a century ago, with those first attempts driven by a mere need to experiment. Even though interest waned in the years that followed, the recent resurgence of the electric vehicle manufacturing space stems from many reasons, including the

across the globe, with projections suggesting it'll hit 77 million by 2025. There is a growing consciousness within the automobile space and among EV owners that, perhaps, battery-powered vehicles offer a road trip advantage. Many EVs can go on for hundreds of kilometers, but you need to plan the trip in a way that is cost effective, eco-friendly and sustainable.

HITTING THE ROAD ON A BUDGET

The first thing to do is to properly ideate your trip. Although charging stations are springing up in a plethora of locations in many countries of the world— including India— this is still largely dependent on density, the EV population of the area, the nature of the route, how

Overall and, perhaps, the most important information to note when considering an EV for long-distance travel is its energy efficiency.

mega supermarkets offering discounted charging to customers. Perhaps, topping up your battery power to the maximum at any of such places before taking off can cut down your trip expenses significantly. If you'll need to make a stop at night during the trip, use a hotel with a charging facility, which would most likely be free or discounted for the guests. Using mobile apps to plan

As of February 2024, India had more than 12,100 public EV charging stations across its cities, with a target to raise the number to 18,000 by 2030.

Furthermore, it is important to understand how EVs work. There's a misconception that driving slowly conserves battery power. While slower speeds do reduce battery consumption, the trade-off is prolonged travel time. It's best to go at mid-speed, preferably within a range of 60 to 80 miles per hour, especially when going on a long trip.

LEVERAGING ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR LONG-DISTANCE TRIPS

Overall and, perhaps, the most important information to note when considering an EV for long-distance travel is its energy efficiency. Compared to fuel, it is more cost effective to use an EV. Besides, it is cleaner and safer to the environment to use an EV because it is powered by renewable energy. Beyond the economic and environmental benefits of electric vehicles, savvy travellers armed with the right information can uncover numerous ways to cut costs on extended journeys.

busy the route gets, and the presence of any other facilities, such as restaurants, malls, parks, etc. Charging up an EV takes a longer time than fuelling up a regular car, so it's important to plan the journey in a way that helps maximise your time while you're charging.

Taking advantage of free or discounted charging stations is another way to embark on that long trip on a budget. You'll find some malls and

your route can also help point you to the right places to charge your EV, save some time, and have a more fulfilling ride. This will ensure that you find charging stations when the need to charge your EV arises, and that charging is cost effective. Thankfully, India's EV charging companies are racing with time and putting in place the necessary charging infrastructure to support EV penetration in the country.



MARUTI SUZUKI LAUNCHES THE NEW SWIFT!

SYED SHIRAZ SHAH

Maruti Suzuki has launched the new Swift in India, and, like our earlier stories, even this won't be a press-release copy-paste but a careful overview, including a few crucial bits of information you won't get anywhere else.

EXTERIOR

All the body panels are new and so are the bumpers, front grille, and alloy wheels. The headlights are LED projector units; and the boomerang shaped DRLs under the smoked glass are obviously LEDs too. Maruti says the rear gets LED combination lamps. What they mean by "combination" here is anyone's guess (LED-halogen combination or dual-function lights?). I shall address this when I review the car.

My favourite change on the outside has to be the rear-door handles returning to their "normal" position. Thank you, Maruti. Another thoughtful touch is the provision of a request sensor (for keyless entry) on the front passenger door as well.

There are six colour options: Blue, Orange, Red, White, Grey, and Silver. Plus, you may have your Blue, Red, or White Swift with a black roof.

INTERIORS

Maruti says the cabin has a fresh layout with 'centre floating design' for



L to R: Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi, MD & CEO, and Mr. Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, MSIL

the dashboard. There's a lot of piano-black finish (high time manufacturers got rid of it!) as well along with satin matt silver inserts. The instrument-cluster dials are asymmetrical and Maruti claims that there's now an electric water pump for optimal engine cooling and a Lambda air-flow sensor for up to 12% lower CO2 emissions, leading to a fuel efficiency figure of up to 25.75 km/l, which is an improvement of 14% over its predecessor.

There's cruise control; Maruti's 9-inch Smart-play Pro+ infotainment system with wireless connectivity for both Apple and Android phones, wireless charging, and fast charging ports for rear seat occupants, who now get their AC vents too.

ENGINE & SUSPENSION

The new Swift now gets a three-pot 1197 cc Z-Series motor with a claimed output of 60 kW (81.58 PS) @5700 rpm and 111.7 Nm @4300 rpm. Maruti says that there's now an electric water pump for optimal engine cooling and a Lambda air-flow sensor for up to 12% lower CO2 emissions, leading to a fuel efficiency figure of up to 25.75 km/l, which is an improvement of 14% over its predecessor.

Maruti haven't specified if the gearboxes (manual and AGS) are the same or new, but they have mentioned that the clutch operation is now hydraulic. For those not in the know, while the erstwhile Swift diesel had a hydraulically operated clutch, the

Swift petrol was still running on a cable-operated clutch.

The company states that the suspension is all-new but doesn't mention the changes.

SAFETY

This is the best part. Now, all Swift variants come with six airbags, Hill Hold, ESP, ABS with EBD and Brake Assist, and 3-point seat belts for all seats with reminders. Maruti also claims that the reverse camera now provides a wider view.

PRICE

The price of the new Swift starts at INR 6,49,000 and goes up to INR 9,64,500 (all prices, ex-showroom). The deliveries have already started.

THE ROLE OF DIGITAL INNOVATION IN CREATING A COUNTERFEITING-FREE ECONOMY IN INDIA

MR. MANOJ KOCHAR

Counterfeiting is a longstanding issue in global economies, including India, undermining trust in brands and posing risks to consumers and businesses. However, digital innovations have emerged as powerful tools in this battle, aided by India's Digital India initiative, which has connected over half a billion users. The Country Digital Adoption Index showcases India's remarkable 90% increase in its digital score since 2014, indicating significant progress towards a digitally empowered society. With increased internet usage and affordable smartphones, digital platforms offer an ideal environment for raising awareness about counterfeit goods and educating consumers.

Collaboration between the public and private sectors is crucial in leveraging technology to combat counterfeiting. By employing blockchain, RFID, and artificial intelligence, robust authentication systems can be established throughout supply chains. Blockchain,



especially, enables transparent and tamper-proof supply networks. RFID tags and smartphone applications with AI-powered image recognition facilitate real-time tracking and authentication of goods, empowering consumers to make informed decisions.

Government initiatives such as the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and unique product identification numbers streamline supply chains and enhance traceability, making it harder for counterfeiters to operate. Stringent regulations and enforcement mechanisms

by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade contribute to a more transparent marketplace. Collaboration with international organizations like INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization aids in combating cross-border counterfeiting.

Industry collaboration is essential for sharing best practices and investing in anti-counterfeiting technologies. However, challenges like ensuring widespread adoption of digital authentication, addressing infra-

structure limitations, and mitigating cybersecurity risks persist. Continuous research and innovation are needed to stay ahead of counterfeiters' tactics.

Investing in research and development, fostering collaboration between government, industry, and academia, and empowering consumers with knowledge and tools are crucial steps towards building a resilient and counterfeit-free economy in India.

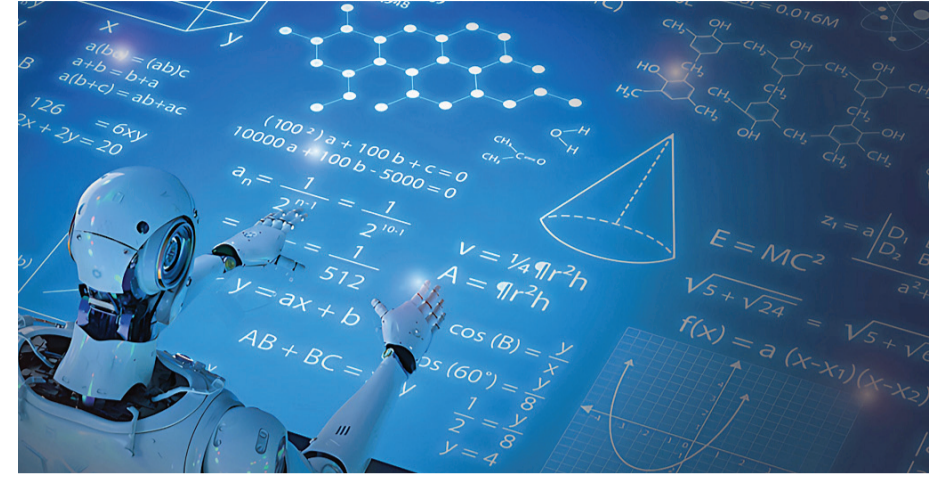
The author is the President at Authentication Solution Providers' Association.

Embracing the Evolution: 5 Transformative Ways Artificial Intelligence Will Reshape Higher Education

PROF. TAVISHI TEWARY

Amidst a period marked by swift technological progressions, Artificial Intelligence (AI) emerges as a paradigm-shifting entity that possesses the capacity to fundamentally reshape numerous industries, including higher education. The impact of AI on higher education is a pressing concern for academic institutions globally. Responses vary from monitoring students' interaction with ChatGPT to appointing an AI czar, and utilizing AI as a catalyst for transformative change. It is rendering one-size-fits-all methodologies in education obsolete. Through the utilisation of machine learning algorithms and data analytics, academic establishments have the ability to customise learning experiences in accordance with students' unique requirements and learning preferences. Real-time assessment of students' strengths and deficiencies by adaptive learning systems enables the provision of individualised recommendations and interventions that enhance the students' educational experience.

Tools and technologies driven by AI are fundamentally transforming conventional instructional approaches and the dynamics of classrooms. Instant support for both students and educators can be rendered by virtual assistants and chatbots outfitted with natural language processing capabilities. These tools are capable of responding to inquiries, providing feedback, and facilitating interactive learning experiences. Moreover, AI-powered content generation tools have the potential to aid instructors



in the production of superior instructional materials and evaluations, thereby conserving resources and time while guaranteeing the pertinence and availability of the content. The utilisation of augmented reality and virtual reality technologies enhances the educational process by completely engaging learners in immersive and interactive environments. In addition, institutions can optimise resource allocation, forecast future enrolment trends, and improve overall institutional effectiveness with the assistance of predictive analytics. Through the utilisation of AI-powered insights, higher education institutions have the capacity to augment student success rates, elevate graduation rates, and cultivate a nurturing learning environment that is conducive to scholastic accomplishments.

AI is fundamentally transforming the academic research and innovation domain by empowering scholars to address intricate challenges and investigate uncharted territories in science, technology, and other fields. The utilisation of AI-driven data analysis tools expedites the discovery

and development of novel concepts in a wide range of fields by facilitating the processing and interpretation of massive datasets. Algorithms for natural language processing enable scientists to efficiently analyse extensive collections of scholarly literature, extract significant findings, and generate hypotheses. As a result, this promotes interdisciplinary cooperation and the exchange of knowledge. In addition, researchers are able to optimise experimental designs, forecast outcomes, and simulate complex phenomena with the assistance of AI-powered simulation models and predictive modelling techniques. This contributes to the advancement of scientific knowledge and the promotion of groundbreaking innovations.

And finally, AI possesses the capability to bridge the divide between learners and educational opportunities. Online learning platforms that are driven by AI algorithms provide learners with cost-effective, scalable, and adaptable alternatives to conventional physical institutions, thereby enhancing the global accessibility of education. Adaptive learning technologies powered

by artificial intelligence accommodate a wide range of learning preferences and requirements, enabling students from all walks of life to pursue their academic objectives at their preferred speed and convenience. In addition, language translation tools powered by artificial intelligence promote cross-cultural exchange and multilingual education by eliminating linguistic barriers and nurturing international cooperation in education and research.

Without a doubt, AI possesses tremendous potential as a paradigm-shifting force in higher education, reshaping approaches to teaching and learning, democratising access to educational opportunities, promoting research and innovation, and augmenting student success. Universities and colleges can empower students to flourish in the digital age by leveraging the potential of technology to deliver inclusive, captivating, and efficient learning environments through their adoption of the progression of artificial intelligence.

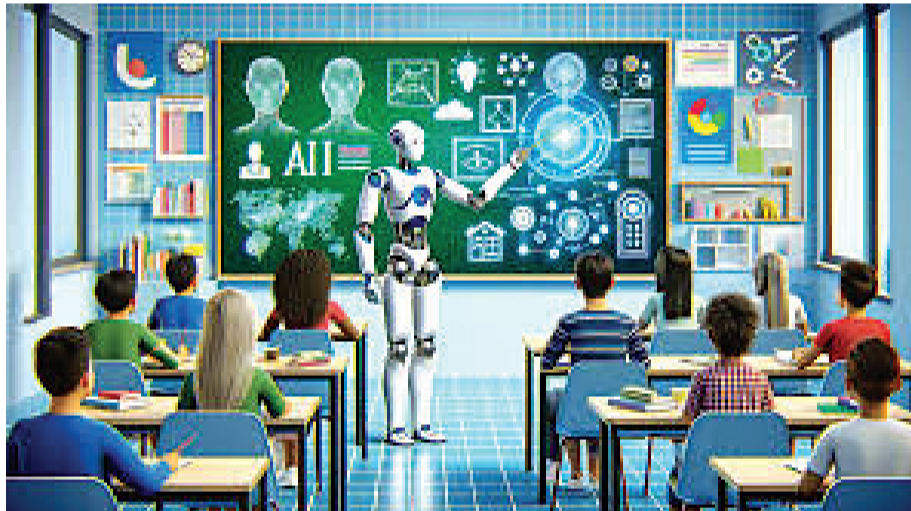
The author is the Assistant Professor at FORE School of Management.

PW revolutionizes Indian education with largest virtual classrooms and AI integration

VASUDEVA RAO MUNNALURI

In a monumental stride towards democratizing education, Physics Wallah (PW), India's foremost ed-tech platform, has pioneered the largest virtual classrooms in the nation, accommodating an astounding 60,000 to 100,000 students per class. With a vision to make quality education accessible to every student, PW has leveraged cutting-edge technology to transcend geographical barriers, ensuring learning reaches even the remotest corners of Bharat.

PW conducts a staggering 200 live lectures daily, offering both live and recorded formats totaling 1,800 lectures per day. This extensive reach serves over 200,000 concurrent live users, solidifying PW's position as the largest virtual learning platform in India. But it's not just about scale; PW emphasizes hyper-personalizing learning experiences through the



- Focused on Hyper-Personalizing Learning with AI Integration in Mega Online Classrooms
- Empowering Students by Making Education Accessible Across the Nation

PW; it's a transformative tool shaping individual learning paths for each student. PW's indigenously built Alakh AI education suite dynamically analyzes various parameters to tailor personalized

inclusivity. Recognizing the challenges posed by rural connectivity, PW introduced a low-data mode on their app, reducing internet consumption by up to 80%. This innovation ensures that students in remote areas can consistently access quality education, fostering inclusivity in education.

PW's commitment to inclusivity extends beyond technological advancements. It has reached 98% of India's pin codes and is teaching girls in 605 out

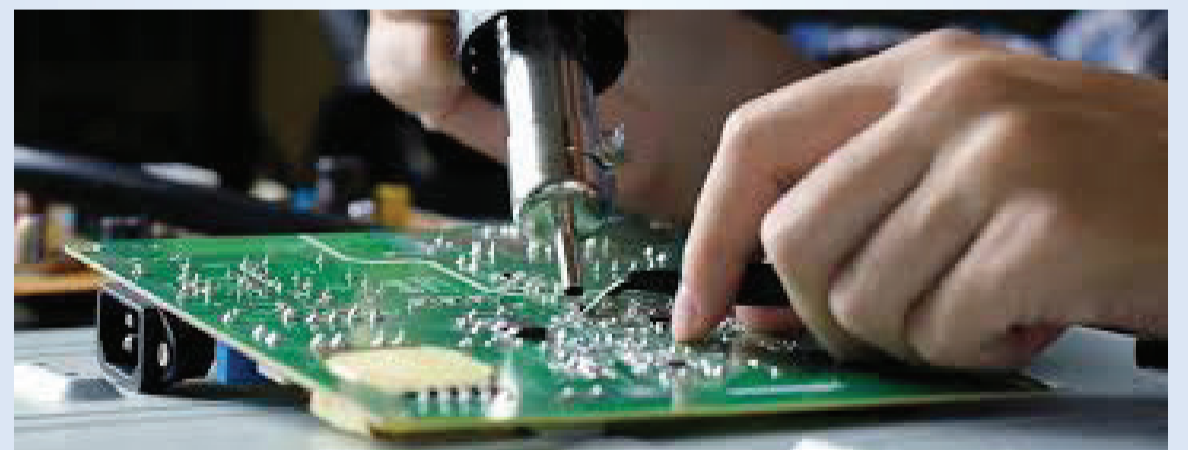
economic progress, with PW's educational access contributing to the emergence of first-generation doctors and engineers in over 500 villages.

The journey of Physics Wallah is one of continuous innovation and expansion. From its humble beginnings as a YouTube channel in 2014 to achieving Unicorn status in 2022, PW has become synonymous with quality education in India. Today, it boasts more than 27 lakh paid students and 1 crore downloads on the PW App. With an expansive presence across 28 test prep categories and a skilling vertical, PW is not just an ed-tech platform; it's a lifelong learning partner for students, empowering them throughout their educational trajectory.

Behind this revolution are visionary leaders like Vineet Govil, Chief Technology & Product Officer, along with Devesh Mishra, Chief Technology Officer, and Varun Agarwal, Vice President-Product. Their collective commitment to innovation and improving the learning experience for students has propelled PW to the forefront of the Indian education landscape.

As PW continues to redefine education in India, its journey serves as a beacon of hope for millions, reaffirming the transformative power of technology in democratizing access to quality education.

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL: INDIA'S EVOLUTION AS A KEY PLAYER IN ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING



MR. SHARAN MAINI

India has navigated a remarkable journey in the realm of electronics manufacturing, transitioning from a primarily local participant to a significant global player. The evolution of India's role in this sector reflects a confluence of factors—economic reforms, technological advancements, policy initiatives, and a mushrooming market demand—that have propelled the country into a pivotal position in the global electronics landscape.

In the not-so-distant past, India was largely viewed as a consumer of electronic goods, heavily reliant on imports to meet domestic demands. However, recognizing the potential of the electronics industry and the disruptions faced in supply chains during the Covid-19 era, the government initiated a series of reforms and policy measures aimed at fostering indigenous manufacturing and attracting foreign investments. The key moment arrived with the introduction of the 'Make in India' campaign, which sought to transform India into a manufacturing hub across various sectors, including electronics.

One of the critical components of India's transformation has been its focus on creating an enabling environment for electronics manufacturing. The implementation of initiatives like the Production-Linked Incentive

(PLI) Scheme specifically targeted the electronics sector, offering financial incentives to companies manufacturing electronic components and products within the country. These incentives played a pivotal role in attracting global technology giants to set up manufacturing units in India.

Moreover, the government's emphasis on skill development and fostering innovation through programs like Skill India and Start-up India has bolstered the country's capabilities in designing and developing cutting-edge electronic products. This focus on nurturing talent and fostering an entrepreneurial ecosystem has further propelled India's evolution in the electronics sector.

India's journey to becoming a key player in electronics manufacturing has also been underpinned by the rise of the local market. The country's burgeoning population, characterized by a tech-savvy and digitally connected demographic, has created a substantial domestic demand for electronic devices. This burgeoning market not only attracts manufacturers but also serves as a testbed for innovation and product development tailored to local preferences. Furthermore, India's strategic geographical location and its growing network of free trade agreements have positioned it as an attractive destination for companies looking to establish manufacturing bases,

serving both the domestic market and facilitating exports to neighbouring regions.

The shift towards local manufacturing has not only reduced the dependency on imports but has also paved the way for India to emerge as a global exporter of electronic goods. The country's capabilities in manufacturing smartphones, consumer electronics, and components

have gained international recognition, leading to an increase in exports and a reduction in the trade deficit in the electronics sector.

Looking ahead, India's trajectory in electronics manufacturing appears promising. With ongoing efforts to enhance infrastructure, strengthen supply chains, and promote research and development, India is poised to solidify its position as a global powerhouse in the electronics industry. However, challenges such as infrastructural gaps, technological upgradation, and global competition remain, necessitating continuous innovation and strategic collaborations to sustain and augment this growth trajectory.

As the country continues on this trajectory, leveraging its strengths and addressing challenges, it is set to play an increasingly influential role in shaping the future of the global electronics industry.

The author is the Director Operations - Veira Group.



L-R: Devesh Mishra (Chief Technology Officer PW), Vineet Govil (Chief Technology and Product Officer PW), Varun Agarwal (Vice President- Product)

integration of AI. Vineet Govil, Chief Technology & Product Officer, asserts, "Our vision is to make quality education accessible to every student, irrespective of their location or socio-economic background."

The integration of AI is not merely a buzzword for

learning experiences. This suite doesn't just stop at personalization; it actively resolves 75% of student doubts in real-time during online classes, significantly enhancing the learning journey.

Despite managing a vast scale, PW ensures optimal performance and

of 766 districts, contributing to gender inclusivity in education. Additionally, PW educates 4.3 million students for free across 83 YouTube channels and an additional 2.8 million through its app. This dedication to providing free quality education has led to significant socio-

CHAHAR, CURRAN'S 2-WICKET HAULS RESTRICT RR AT 144/9 AGAINST PBKS

TDG NETWORK
GUWAHATI

Sam Curran and Rahul Chahar helped Punjab Kings (PBKS) to restrict Rajasthan Royals (RR) at 144/9 in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium on Wednesday. Riyan Parag was the only standout batter for Rajasthan Royals after he scored the highest runs among his teammates in Guwahati.

After winning the toss, Rajasthan Royals decided to bat first in Guwahati, however, they did not get the start they wanted after Punjab Kings bowlers restricted the hosts' run rate. Yashasvi Jaiswal (4 runs from 4 balls, 1 four) and Tom Kohler-Cadmore (18 runs from 23 balls, 2 fours and 1 six) opened for the Rajasthan-based franchise. Jaiswal smashed a four after cracking a cover drive



against Sam Curran in the first ball of the inning. But the Indian youngster struggled in front of the PBKS skipper as Curran dismissed him in the fourth ball of the first over.

Curran gave only nine runs in his first over. After the first dismissal, Kohler-Cadmore and Sanju Samson (18 runs from 15 balls, 3 fours) tried to build

a partnership. But the RR skipper was removed by Nathan Ellis in the 7th over. After the end of the first powerplay of the match, the Royals scored just 38 runs and lost one wicket. In IPL 2024, RR became the second franchise after Gujarat Titans (GT) to hit the least sixes in powerplay, Samson's side smashed just 17 overhead boundaries in the

ongoing T20 tournament. Kohler-Cadmore struggled to get going in the game and Rahul Chahar was successful in dismissing him in the 8th over. RR were at 58/3 after the end of the 10th over. PBKS bowlers kept the rate under control without any problem.

The Royals registered the fifth lowest scores at the 10-over mark in the ongoing IPL 2024. After failing to hit boundaries, Ravichandran Ashwin (28 runs from 19 balls, 3 fours and 1 six) came as a rescue in the 12th over after he slammed 2 fours and 1 six against Chahar. The PBKS bowler gave 17 runs in the 12th over. In the 13th over, Arshdeep Singh removed Ashwin to get an upper hand on the match. RR failed to maintain momentum in the game, as in the 14th over, Sam Curran removed Dhruv Jurel for a golden duck.

'Still hope to play few more years, make an impact in world cricket...'

TDG NETWORK
DUBAI

India skipper Rohit Sharma opened up about his journey as an international cricketer and captain and dropped a hint about his future with the national team.

The Indian skipper, currently playing for Mumbai Indians (MI) in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL), was speaking on the Dubai Eye 103.8 Radio Station.

Speaking about his journey as an international cricketer, Rohit said that he aims to play for a few more years and make an impact in world cricket.

"The journey has been wonderful; to make it to the highest level is not easy, especially in the country from where I come from; it has been 17 years; I still hope to play a few more years as well and make an impact in world



cricket," Rohit said. The Indian skipper also said that throughout his crickering life, he has seen more downs than ups, especially during the start of his career. These downs affected him to such an extent that he was left questioning if he belonged to the national side.

"I have seen more downs than ups in my life, the human and person I am today is because of what I have seen in the past, and in the downs. When I started my career, I did not have a lot

of positives. I did not have a lot of positive impact on the team. I was questioning whether I belonged here or not. It was about what I could do as a person or want in this life as a person and player," said Rohit.

Speaking on being the captain of the Indian team, Rohit said that captaining your country is the biggest honour one could have. He also opened up on his vision as the skipper, at the heart of which is prioritising team over personal milestones. "Captaining

your country is the biggest honour that you can have, and for me, I have never thought that this would arrive where I will be captaining one day. But yeah, people say good things happen to good people," said Rohit. "I was very fortunate to get that opportunity (to be a captain), and I knew the past captains who have had an impact in Indian cricket and the kind of legacy they have left as well. We have had so many great captains, so yeah, just taking from where these guys left, making sure that the team heads in the right direction."

"When I took over as India Captain, I just wanted everyone to drive in one direction, that is how the team sport should be played, it is not about personal milestones, stats and goals, it is about what all 11 of us can bring to the table and win the trophy," Rohit concluded his point.

ANOTHER RECORD TOPPLES, MOST SIXES IN IPL HISTORY HIT THIS SEASON

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The 17th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) has changed the dynamics of T20 cricket and witnessed records topple one after another. During Delhi Capitals' clash against the Lucknow Super Giants on Tuesday, the ongoing season witnessed the highest number of sixes in a single edition of the cash-rich league.

A total of 20 towering maximums were struck during the high-scoring run-fest between DC and LSG. The Capitals, in the end, emerged victorious with a 19-run win.

The 20 sixes took the overall tally of maximums in the ongoing season to 1,125, which is the most in any season. The number will rise, as there are still a handful of games left to play in the tournament. In the previous season,



1,124 was the overall tally of sixes. In 2022, 1,062 times, the ball sailed into the stands. The tally of the past three seasons clearly suggests the trend of dealing in sixes and signifies the dominance of the batters. Along with this, a handful of records have already tumbled during the ongoing season of the cash-rich league.

The Punjab Kings chased down a target of 262 set by the Kolkata Knight Riders at the iconic Eden Gardens. This marked the highest successful chase in the history of T20 cricket.

Chess: Arjun outplays Safarli in Sharjah Masters

TDG NETWORK
SHARJAH

World number seven Erigaise Arjun started his campaign on a positive note, outplaying Eltaj Safarli of Azerbaijan in the first round of the Sharjah Masters chess tournament here. Indian Grandmasters Aravindh Chithambaram and P Niyan also started on the winning side defeating compatriot Bharath Subramaniyam and Irani Pouya of Iran respectively in the USD 52,000 prize money tournament considered as one of the strongest open of the world.

Besides the three Indian winners two young players having Indian origin Abhimanyu Mishra of United States and lowest seed Shreyas Royal of England also recorded victories at the expense of Raja Ritvik and Rinat Jumabayev of Kazakhstan respectively.

It was generally a tough day for the higher seeded players as they conceded a lot of draws. The strength of the tournament became clear on the opening day itself with



just 18 decisive games out of total 44.

Arjun though was relentless and capitalized on a strategic middle game error from Safarli who suffered for the rest of the game.

A Najdorf by the Azerbaijani as black was met with the Classical treatment and Arjun gained the upper hand when Safarli went for unwarranted complications giving Arjun a dangerous passed pawn in the middle game. Arjun marched his pawn to the seventh rank collected a rook for a knight and cruised through.

Chithambaram gave a nice lesson on the Bishop pair advantage to Subramaniyam. Chithambaram sacrificed

a pawn early in the queen pawn opening and regained it later in the middle game with a decent advantage. The Bishop pair hardly moved but controlled key squares for any counterplay.

Iniyan also played a fine game to beat Idani Pouya. It was another Queen pawn game of the day wherein Iniyan got a queen side pawn majority when the dust settled. The Iranian was left shocked in a difficult but defensible Knight and pawns endgame when Iniyan spotted this brilliant tactic through a knight sacrifice. The game lasted 49 moves.

Amongst other Indians in the fray, S L Narayanan had to split the point with Turkish Sanal Vahap while young Turk Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus held Nihal Sarin to a creditable draw.

The lone Indian women in the fray, GM D Harika got off to a good start holding Manuel Petrosyan of Armenia but Leon Luke Mendonca, the winner of this year's Tata Steel Challenger went down to Polish Marcin

Krzyzanowski. Eight rounds still remain in the 88-player tournament.

Indian results round 1 (Indians unless stated): Erigaise Arjun beat Eltaj Safarli (Aze); S P Sethuraman drew with Temour Radjabov (Aze); Amin Tabatabaei (Iri) beat V Pranav; S L Narayanan drew with Sanal Vahap (Tur); Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus (Tur) drew with Nihal Sarin; Aravindh Chithambaram beat Bharath Subramaniyam; Raunak Sadhwani drew with David Gavrilescu (Rou); Sankalp Gupta drew with Ter-Sahakyan Samvel (Arm); Nguyen Thai Dai Van (Cze) beat Pranav Anand; Leon Luke Mendonca lost to Marcin Krzyzanowski (Pol); Abhimanyu Mishra (Usa) beat Raja Rithvik; Abhimanyu Puranik drew with B Adhiban; D Harika drew with Manuel Petrosyan (Arm); Nikolas Theodorou (Gre) beat Aditya Samant Samant; Aditya Mittal drew with Cardoso Jose Gabriel (Esp); P Iniyan beat Idani Pouya (Iri); Abhijeet Gupta drew with Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz).

Seven Indian golfers to tee up in Germany

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Diksha Dagar and Pranavi Urs, the two in-form golfers, will be in the group of seven Indians at the Euros 300,000 Amundi German Masters. Apart from Diksha and Pranavi, the other Indians are Tvesa Malik, Vani Kapoor, Amandeep Drall and Sneha Singh, who has received an invitation, as has amateur Avani Prashanth, who also played the event last year. There are 132 players in the 72-hole event at the Seddiner See course, just outside Berlin. The cut will be applied after 36 holes and the top-60 and ties will play the final two rounds.

Diksha Dagar will also represent India at the Olympic Games in Paris, where she will be joined by Aditi Ashok, who is playing on the LPGA Tour in the US. Last year Diksha was leading the event at one stage, before she finished third.

It was one of the three Top-

3 finishes she had in 2023, when she also finished third in the LET Order of Merit. She won the Czech Ladies Open and was third at the Amundi German Masters and the Hero Women's Indian Open.

Pranavi Urs was T-7 last week in Aramco Series Korea, while Vani Kapoor, Tvesa Malik and Amandeep Drall are trying to get back their Tours cards for LET. Sneha Singh, winner of the Hero Order of Merit on the domestic Tour in 2023, will be hoping to make it big and amateur Avani Prashanth expected to turn pro at the end of the year is keen on making a mark among professionals, too.

The defending champion is Czech Republic's Kristyna Napoleova who beat England's Cara Gainer in a playoff last year. The field also includes two former Order of Merit winners with reigning Race to Costa del Sol champion Trichat Cheenglab and South Africa's Lee-Anne Pace.

Bellingham, Vinicius shine as Real Madrid smash Alaves 5-0

TDG NETWORK
MADRID

Real Madrid presented its 36th Spanish league trophy to its fans at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, then followed up the celebrations with a 5-0 rout of Alaves that featured a pair of goals by Vinicius and another by Jude Bellingham.

Federico Valverde and Arda Guler also scored for Madrid, which was yet to play at the Bernabeu since clinching the league two rounds ago. The club celebrated the title on Sunday through the streets of Madrid, but it couldn't go through its traditional celebration at the Bernabeu because of a concert at the stadium.

It couldn't celebrate when it clinched the title in advance with a win against Cadiz on May 4 because it had to play Bayern Munich a few days later in the semi-finals of the Champions League, a game it won 2-1 to make it to the June 1 final against Borussia Dortmund in London.

"I'm really pleased with the team's performance, we need to get into a good rhythm. We have a very important game left to crown



our season," Vinicius said. "We always enjoy wearing this shirt and playing for these fans at this stadium. My dream since I was a child was to play here and now we have the opportunity to deliver this victory for many kids who want to be here but can't."

Alaves' players gave Madrid a guard of honor before the match, lining up near the sideline and applauding Madrid players as they entered the field. Madrid captain Nacho Fernandez stepped onto the field carrying the league trophy.

The other 35 league trophies were represented in

images placed around the midfield circle.

Coach Carlo Ancelotti used the regular starters again after giving them some rest in a 4-0 win at Granada on Saturday.

Bellingham opened the scoring in the 10th minute. Vinicius scored his first goal in the 27th and Valverde found the net in first-half stoppage time. Vinicius got his second in the 70th and Guler sealed the result in the 81st.

It was the ninth straight league win for Madrid and sixth in its last seven matches in all competitions. It reached 93 points from

36 matches, 17 points more than second-place Barcelona.

Earlier, relegation-threatened Mallorca drew 1-1 at Osasuna, moving to 15th place and staying seven points from the demotion zone. Girona missed a chance to overcome Barcelona for second place after a 1-0 loss to mid-table Villarreal at home. Girona stayed in third place after the loss, one point from Barcelona and five ahead of fourth-place Atletico Madrid.

Atletico visits mid-table Getafe on Wednesday, while Barcelona is at last-place Almeria on Thursday.

Federation Cup: Neeraj Chopra bags gold medal with best throw of 82.27 m

TDG NETWORK
BHUBANESWAR

Olympic gold medallist and World Champion Neeraj Chopra secured a gold medal in the men's javelin throw competition in the ongoing Federation Cup on Wednesday. Chopra bagged the gold, with the best throw of 82.27 m. DP Manu, a silver medalist in the Asian Athletics Championships, bagged the second spot with the best effort of 82.06 m. Asian Games silver medalist Kishore Jena, however, could not secure a



podium position. Uttam Patil, with a throw of 78.39m, took home the bronze. Neeraj started off in the

final with a throw of 82 m. However, DP took the lead with a throw of 82.06 m in his first attempt.

The second attempt of the Olympic gold medalist turned out to be a foul, though he bounced back well with 81.29 m throw in the third attempt. DP Manu still held the lead, though. Neeraj took the lead in his fourth attempt, throwing at a distance of 82.27 m. Manu could not gain back his lead as he threw 81.47 m on the fourth attempt and fouled on the next two attempts. Neeraj chose not to attempt his last two throws and bagged the top prize.

Man City on verge of Premier League title with 2-0 win over Tottenham

TDG NETWORK
LONDON

Erling Haaland scored twice as Manchester City beat Tottenham 2-0 on Tuesday and moved to within one win of a record fourth-straight Premier League title. The three-time defending champion will go into the final round of games on Sunday with a two-point lead on second-place Arsenal. City hosts West Ham, while Arsenal is at home against Everton.

Haaland fired Pep Guardiola's team ahead in the



51st minute at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium when he converted Kevin De Bruyne's cross from close range. He struck his second from the penalty spot in the first minute of stoppage time after

ter Pedro Porro had brought down Jeremy Doku. City's win also meant Aston Villa secured fourth place and qualification for next season's Champions League ahead of Tottenham in fifth.

While Haaland's goals were decisive, City had to rely on substitute goalkeeper Stefan Ortega to keep Spurs at bay as the home team pushed for an equalizer.

Coming on in the 69th after Ederson had sustained a head injury in a collision with Cristian Romero, Ortega quickly had to block a close-range effort from Dejan Kulusevski. Later he produced another save to deny the Spurs forward, but Ortega's finest moment came in the 86th when Son Heung-min raced through on goal.